Manga: Kirihito Ayamura

Original Work: Nahuse

Character Designer: Gin

Environment Artist: yish

Mechanical Designer: cell

VOLUME 004

REBUILD WORLD

VOLUME
004

Tsuki ga Michibiku Isekai Douchuu

Manga: Kirihito Ayamura
Character Designer: Gin
Original Work: Nahuse
Environment Artist: yish
Mechanical Designer: cell

VOLUME

004

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Extras

The advanced civilization that once dominated the world crumbled to ruins long ago. As ages pass, the survivors have begun piecing together the fragments of its wisdom and glory as they struggle to rebuild their world.

REBUILD WORLD VOLUME.FOUR

Chapter 15

YOU WANT ME TO AIM FOR THAT PEBBLE?

KRACK

I HIT IT!

I CUSTOMIZED YOUR SUIT'S OS, JUST LIKE I DID WITH YOUR TERMINAL.

NOW I CAN CORRECT YOUR AIM WITH IT.

WOW! IS THERE ANYTHING YOU *CAN'T* DO?

NOW, TIME TO GET SERIOUS.

YOUR POWERED SUIT WILL LET ME DO *SO* MUCH MORE FOR YOU.

LET ME SHOW YOU JUST HOW MUCH!

WAIT, DOES THAT MEAN I CAN DITCH TARGET PRACTICE NOW?

NO, YOU MAY HAVE TO FIGHT WITHOUT YOUR SUIT.

AND MY SUPPORT ISN'T EFFECTIVE EVERY-WHERE.

DDDD

I GET IT!

I GET IT ALREADY! JUST STOP!

I REALLY HOPE YOU MEAN THAT!

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T DO IT UNLESS I HAVE TO.

PANT // PANT // PANT // PANT // PANT // PANT

DOING THAT... WOULD RIP ME APART BEFORE WE...GET AWAY.

NOW YOU CAN ESCAPE MONSTER PACKS ON FOOT.

BETTER THAN DYING, RIGHT?

COME ON. GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT.

NEXT UP, HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TRAINING.

I'LL BE YOUR SPARRING PARTNER.

HAND-TO-HAND? HOW? I MEAN, I CAN'T TOUCH YOU.

JUST TRY SWINGING AT ME.

BAM

WHA-?! I HIT YOU?!

WAIT, THAT'S NOT IT.

I LOCKED YOUR SUIT'S JOINTS TO SIMULATE CONTACT.

THAT SHOULD HELP YOU GET A FEEL FOR THIS.

FSSKFF

FWSH

BA-DO

BAM

BE MORE AGGRES-SIVE!

MIND YOUR STANCE!

WHAM

FSSKD

I'VE TWEAKED YOUR SUIT...

...TO MAKE OPTIMAL MOTIONS EASIER...

...AND TO RESIST MISTAKES.

YOU LEAVE YOURSELF WIDE OPEN AFTER A STRIKE.

TEACH YOUR BODY THE RIGHT WAY TO MOVE.

WACK

WOOSH

SPLSH

SPLSH

GUESS WHAT? YOU JUST DIED.

...

KA-

BAM

LET'S CALL IT A DAY.

...IS PLAYING CATCHUP WITH YOUR SUIT.

THAT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE YOUR MIND...

BUT HANG ONTO THAT FEELING.

// PANT // PANT //

ALPHA, CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

I'M, ER, NOT SURE HOW TO SAY THIS.

I'VE BEEN GETTING FLASHES OF THIS WEIRD FEELING.

IT'S LIKE... BY THE TIME I THINK OF DOING SOME-THING, I'VE ALREADY DONE IT.

THAT'S FINE. I'LL TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR SUIT AND WALK YOU HOME.

SO JUST FOCUS ON TRAINING.

I'M TOO WORN OUT TO MOVE A MUSCLE.

タタタタタタタタタタタタ TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

タTMP タTMP タTMP タTMP タTMP

...PLEASE *TRY* TO GO EASY ON ME.

A FEW DAYS LATER

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN THE HANG OF YOUR SUIT, I SIGNED YOU UP FOR A JOB WITH THE HUNTER OFFICE.

IT'S A WASTE-LAND PATROL. YOUR MAIN DUTY IS TO CULL MON-STERS AROUND KUGAMAYAMA.

THIS JOB IS PERFECT FOR HUNTERS JUST STARTING OUT.

YOU EARN A BONUS FOR MONSTERS YOU KILL, AND YOU STILL GET THE BASE PAY EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE ANY.

LINE UP AND SCAN YOUR HUNTER ID!

BOARD THE TRUCK WITH YOUR ASSIGNED NUMBER!

MISSING YOUR RIDE COUNTS AS SKIPPING OUT ON YOUR JOB!

HUSTLE

BUSTLE

FOURTEEN, HUH? WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

GET ON TRUCK 14! NEXT!

BEEP

NEVER MIND. THAT NUMBER JUST HAS SOME... BAGGAGE.

14

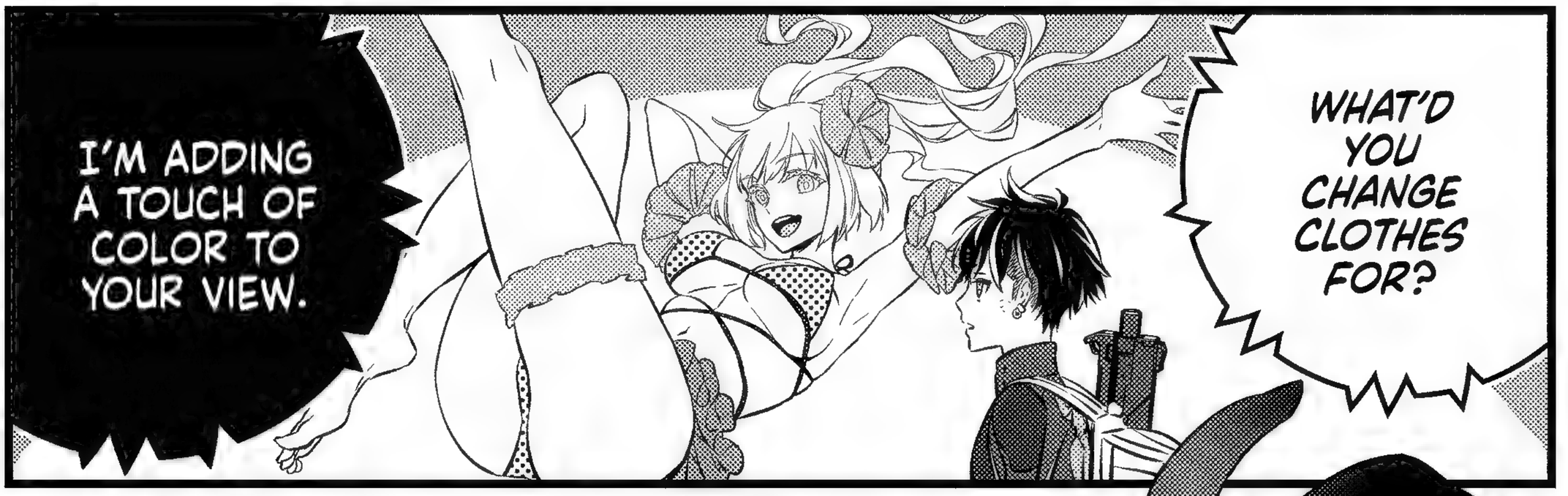
STARE シ〃

シ〃 STARE

CLENCH! ギリ!!〃

ギリ TENSE

LOOK, AKIRA. THIS SEAT'S FREE.


I'M ADDING A TOUCH OF COLOR TO YOUR VIEW.
WHAT'D YOU CHANGE CLOTHES FOR?

DON'T CARE FOR IT. JUST CHANGE BACK.
HOW ABOUT THIS?

ANOTHER BRAT?!

WHY'D I GET ASSIGNED TO THIS DAYCARE ON WHEELS?!

SERI-OUSLY?! JUST MY LUCK!

YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT SKILL?

THEN TELL ME—WHAT'S YOUR HUNTER RANK?

SLAM

WHAT'S AGE GOT TO DO WITH IT?!

WHAT?

HUNTING'S ALL ABOUT SKILL!

NINETEEN! STILL GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME?!

ABOVE THE AVERAGE FOR THIS PATROL— WHICH IS FIFTEEN.

HOW GOOD IS NINE-TEEN?

NGH ...!

SAY THAT AGAIN!

KAT-SUYA!

HA! YOU DRUN-CAM BRATS.

THINK I'LL TRUST A RANK YOU GOT BY CLINGING TO A VET'S ASS? IT'S JUST A NUMBER!

WHAT ?!

I BET YOU DIDN'T EARN THE CASH FOR THAT FANCY GEAR EITHER!

IDIOTS WHO CONFUSE SPECS AND SKILL ARE JUST DEAD WEIGHT!

DRUNCAM IS ONE OF THE LARGEST HUNTER SYNDICATES AROUND HERE.

IF YOU PLANNED ON DOING ANY WORK, YOU'D SEE THIS AS A CHANCE TO SCORE A BIGGER SHARE OF THE KILLS!

YOU'RE THE DEAD WEIGHT! WHY'RE YOU SO MAD ABOUT PATROLLING WITH YOUNGER HUNTERS?!

KATSUYA.

YUMINA! DON'T TRY TO—

ドゴォ

WHAM

YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THAT TRASH TALK LYING DOWN?!

YANK

DON'T PICK FIGHTS WITH OTHER HUNTERS EVERY CHANCE YOU GET!

WE *ARE* KIDS! DEAL WITH IT!

REAL TOUGH GUYS HAVE THICK SKIN.

WE'RE HUNTERS, REMEMBER?! SHUT HIM UP BY PROVING WHAT YOU CAN DO!

...

OW!

STIK

HERE.

...

FUMP

APPLES AND ORANGES.

IF YOU'RE GONNA PATCH ME UP, DON'T HIT ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!

WE'RE GOING PLACES FAST.

JEALOUS LOUDMOUTHS LIKE HIM WILL BE EATING OUR DUST.

UNTIL THEN, PUT UP WITH IT.

BESIDES, NOTHING I SAID WOULD HAVE STOPPED YOU.

SORRY FOR THE FUSS.

FUME

GOOD POINT. THANKS, AIRI.

THAT'S ALL I'LL SAY.

HMMR HMMR

HMPH!

I'M SHIKARABE FROM DRUNCAM.

GLARE

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON OUR ROOKIES, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM HOLDING YOU BACK.

OUR PERFOR-MANCE WON'T LET YOU DOWN.

MOVE OUT!

IT'S TIME! IF ANYONE STARTS TROUBLE, I'LL KICK 'EM OUT AND MARK 'EM ABSENT!

14

RATA TATA TATA

BLAM

BAM

BA

BA

I'M NOT WITH THEM.

HEY, DRUNCAM BRAT! GO JOIN YOUR BUDDIES!

RATATA

DAMN! THE OTHER SIDE'S GOT ALL THE LUCK.

I CUT BACK ON LIVING COSTS TO PAY FOR IT.

I BET DRUNCAM LOANED YOU THAT THING.

OH YEAH? THEN EXPLAIN THAT POWERED SUIT.

Y-YEAH? SORRY I LUMPED YOU IN WITH THOSE GUYS.

I'M HERE SO I CAN AFFORD A ROOM WITH A BATH AGAIN.

SO I HAVEN'T GOTTEN TO SOAK IN A TUB IN AGES.

HUH? THAT'S NOWHERE NEAR ENOUGH TO—

THOSE BRATS ARE GETTING FULL OF THEM-SELVES.

DAMN. STILL TOO FAR AWAY.

HE'S SHOOTING FROM A MOVING TRUCK.

IT'S A BIG DEAL TO LAND A HIT AT ALL.

YEAH! GOT ONE!

NICE GOING, KATSUYA. STILL, YOU LET IT GET AWFULLY CLOSE.

?

SINCE WE USE THE SAME WEAPON, I'LL LET YOU TAKE THE FIRST SHOT.

THANKS.

OH! YOU USE AN **AAH**? ME TOO!

IT'S A GREAT RIFLE.

'COURSE, HE WON'T HIT ANYTHING AT THAT RANGE.

LEAVE IT TO ME! BEHOLD MY AMAZING SUPPORT!

ALPHA, DO YOUR THING.

VRRRRRRR

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

CLACK

BLAM

?!

SHOCK

SPLAT

IT'S A GREAT RIFLE.

N-NOT BAD.

HE KILLED IT IN ONE SHOT?! FROM THAT RANGE?!

NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

WAS THAT A FLUKE?

WHO IS HE?!

!

?

VRRRRRM

WELL, YOUR FIRST PATROL'S DONE.

HUSTLE #7

SCAN YOUR ID TO CLOSE OUT YOUR JOB!

IF YOU WANT YOUR PAY IN CASH, GO TO THE OFFICE DISBURSE-MENT COUNTER!

PAYMENTS START AT 1800 HOURS TODAY!

I REPEAT, SCAN YOUR ID TO...

COMPLETE.

BEEP

THAT WON'T COVER A ROOM WITH A BATH.

YOU ONLY KILLED ONE MONSTER, SO DON'T EXPECT MUCH EXTRA.

YOUR BASE PAY IS FIVE THOUSAND AURUM. I HAD IT SENT TO YOUR ACCOUNT.

AKIRA?

NEXT ONE'S AT 1100 HOURS, HUH?

YOU HAVE ANOTHER PATROL THIS MORNING...

...AND FOUR MORE THIS AFTERNOON, SO YOU SHOULD MAKE ENOUGH.

ELENA!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU. LONG TIME NO SEE!

THANK YOU.

THAT MUST BE THE SUIT SHIZUKA MEN-TIONED.

IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

...

I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY NOW.

LET'S CATCH UP AT SHIZUKA'S STORE SOME OTHER TIME.

SEE YOU!

AKIRA?

I'M FINE.

LET'S GO. IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY NEXT PATROL.

THANK YOU SO MUCH...

...FOR SAVING ELENA AND ME.

THEN, NEXT TIME, YOU SHOULD SAVE THEM.

THAT'S MY ADVICE.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME BEING THANKED HAS FELT SO PAINFUL.

BEEP

LISTEN, IF YOU'RE GONNA SAY STUFF LIKE THAT, AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT THE NUMBER MEANS.

THAT NUMBER AGAIN? MAYBE IT'S YOUR DESTINY.

GET ON TRUCK 14! NEXT!

PRETTY MUCH.

OH, IT MEANS I'VE GOT ROTTEN LUCK.

NOTHING MAJOR. SUPER-STITIOUS PEOPLE JUST CONSIDER IT A LITTLE OMINOUS.

タタタタ…
RATATATA

BLAM

BAM

RATATATA

I SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM AFFORDING A ROOM WITH A BATH NOW!

NO SHORT-AGE OF MONSTERS THIS TIME AROUND.

I'LL TAKE A NICE, LONG SOAK TODAY.

VRRRRRRRM

DON'T RELAX YET. YOU HAVE MORE PATROLS TO RUN THIS AFTERNOON.

SLAM

THOSE TROUBLE-MAKERS AREN'T ON BOARD THIS TIME. MAYBE THIS NUMBER'S NOT SO UNLUCKY AFTER ALL.

WORK HARD IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THAT ROOM WITH A BATH FOR MORE THAN ONE NIGHT.

OKAY, TIME FOR MY NEXT PATROL!

...

TRUCK 14! NEXT!

YOU'VE GOT SOME TIME BEFORE YOUR NEXT PATROL. NAP WHILE YOU CAN.

GOOD IDEA.

THEY'RE JUST RE-USING THE NUMBER, RIGHT?

PROBABLY. DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU.

SORRY WE'RE LATE!

KATSUYA, YOU'RE TOO HYPED.

I AM NOT!

ARE TOO.

IT'S GREAT TO WORK WITH YOU AGAIN!

ELENA! SARA!

ABOUT THAT... I'M SORRY.

I KNOW IT'S SHORT NOTICE, BUT WE NEED TO CANCEL.

WELL, THEY'RE ***YOUR*** PROBLEM NOW. PUT 'EM THROUGH THEIR PACES.

WHAAAT ?!

NATURALLY. WE GOT ANOTHER OFFER VIA THE HUNTER OFFICE.

AND WE'RE GIVING THAT JOB PRIORITY.

WHAT'S GOING ON? IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO BACK OUT.

YOU'D BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLANA-TION.

IF YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT'LL FLY, WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE MEASURES.

YOU'RE BREAKING OFF A DEAL WITH DRUNCAM OVER *THAT*?

EVEN IF OUR CLIENT IS THE ELGC?

THE ELGC?!

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THAT?

THEY WANT US TO PATROL NEAR THE CITY.

IT'S A DANGEROUS ROUTE, BUT NOTHING SPECIAL...

...EXCEPT IT'S THE ELGC THAT WANTS IT DONE.

WE DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO TURN THEM DOWN FOR A ROUTINE JOB WITH A FEW FAMILIAR FACES.

THE OFFICE WILL PAY YOU A CANCELLATION FEE, SO THAT'LL HAVE TO DO.

YES, EVEN THOUGH NORMALLY THE CITY WOULD BE THE ONE ISSUING A JOB LIKE THIS.

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS, BUT THIS WAS A FORMAL OFFER VIA THE HUNTER OFFICE, SO I DOUBT IT'S A SIMPLE MISTAKE.

IF YOU'RE WILLING TO GO THAT FAR, WE MIGHT RECONSIDER.

DON'T ASK THE IMPOSSI-BLE.

FINE. I'LL LET MY BOSSES KNOW.

UNLESS...

...DRUNCAM WANTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ELGC FOR US?

TELL DRUN-CAM WE DID THE RIGHT THING AND CANCELED IN PERSON.

BYE.

BEATS ME.

STILL, THE ELGC?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

...

WHY WOULD THE ELGC HIRE ELENA AND SARA?

THEY'RE ON MY LEVEL, BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN IT.

SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.

AND WE HAVE TO WORK LOW-PAYING JOBS TO GIVE THEM EXPERIENCE.

I GET TRAINING ROOKIES, BUT THEIR GEAR COMES OUT OF OUR EARNINGS.

SHIT. IF I WASN'T STUCK BABY-SITTING...

...I COULD START LOOKING INTO THAT ELGC JOB RIGHT NOW.

I WISH THE HIGHER-UPS WOULD CONSIDER THAT ONCE IN A WHILE.

I DID SOME DIGGING, AND HUNTERS IN NEARBY RUINS HAVE GOTTEN SIMILAR OFFERS.

IF THE ELGC IS HIRING PEOPLE ON OUR LEVEL...

...THEY MIGHT WANT EVERY LOCAL HUNTER BACK IN THE CITY.

VRRRRRRR

HEY, ELENA, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS JOB?

VROOOM

...BUT WE'D BETTER BE READY FOR ANYTHING.

I HOPE THEY'RE JUST PLAYING IT SAFE...

BUT I CAN'T FIGURE OUT ***WHY.***

14

JOLT

AKIRA! IT'S TIME!

ナレレレ

SAAAK

WHO'S HE?

YEAH. IT'S TOP-OF-THE-LINE.

I WAS GONNA BOOT YOU OUT IF YOU SLEPT PAST THE START OF YOUR PATROL...

...BUT YOU WOKE UP RIGHT ON TIME. YOU MUST HAVE ONE HELL OF AN ALARM CLOCK.

MY BAD!

JEEZ!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN ALARM CLOCK?!

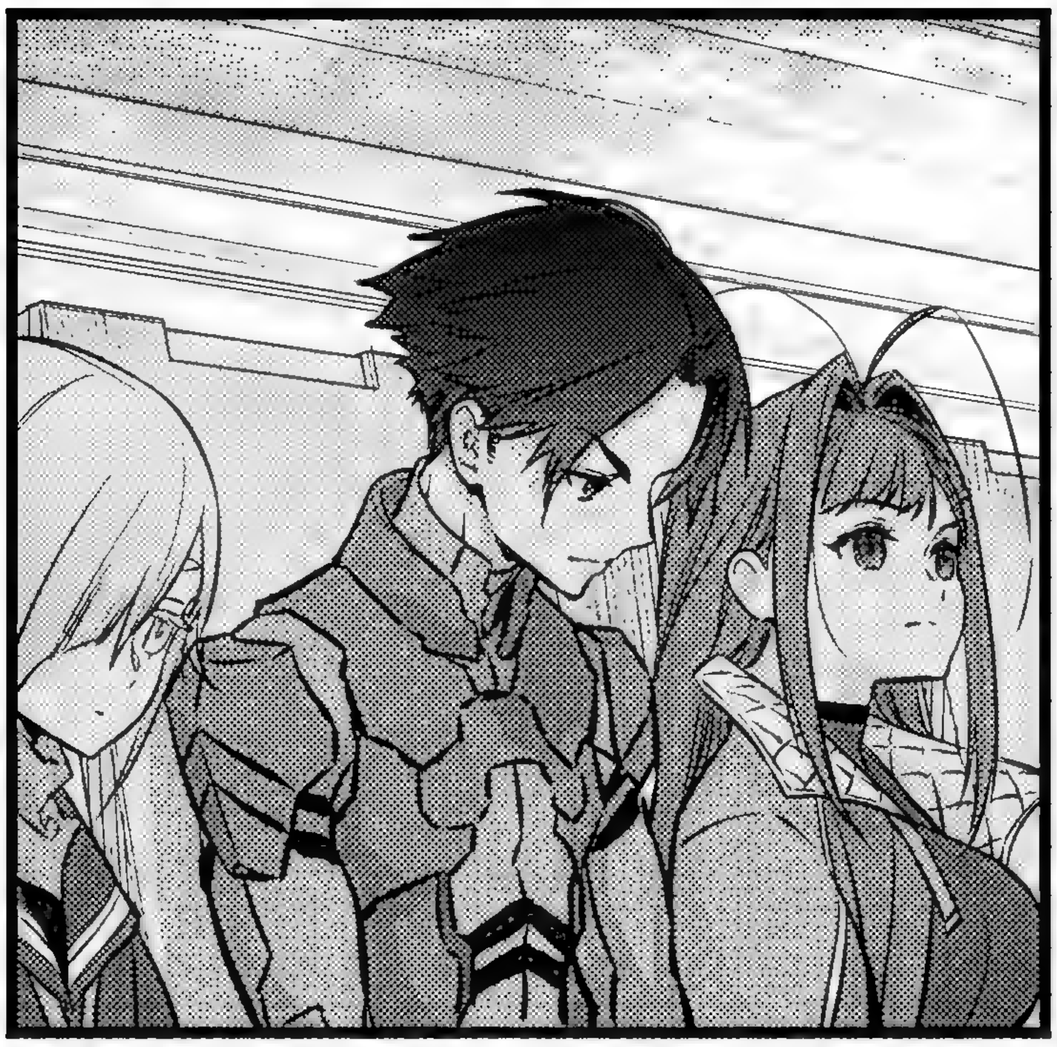
GAAK

HEY!

TIME TO MOVE OUT!

IF ANYONE STARTS TROUBLE, I'LL KICK 'EM OUT AND MARK 'EM ABSENT!

GOT THAT?!



VRRR

ゴロロロ…
VRRRRRM

14

Chapter 16

14

SOME-THING MUST BE UP IF WE STILL CAN'T FIND ANY.

IT'S WEIRD. THE TRUCK SHOULD BE SCANNING FOR MON-STERS.

MAN, TALK ABOUT BAD LUCK.

LOOKS LIKE NO BONUS PAY FOR THIS JOB.

I'M NOT SEEING ANY MON-STERS.

ME NEITHER.

HUH? WHY'D WE STOP?

WHAT'S WRONG?

キュキュキュ
SCREE

ガシャ
CLANK
ガシャ
CLANK
ガラガラ
SLATER
YOUR JOBS ARE MARKED AS DONE.
NOW, HERE'S THE SCOOP.
I'VE GOT NEWS.
FIRST, THIS PATROL ENDS NOW.
THE CITY DEFENSE FORCE IS ALREADY PREPARING TO SORTIE.
A MASSIVE WAVE OF MONSTERS FROM THE KUZUSUHARA TOWN RUINS IS REPORTEDLY ADVANCING ON THE CITY.
SHOCK

THE EMERGENCY JOB IS TO BACK THEM UP.

PATROLS NEAR THE RUINS ARE ALREADY HOLDING THEM AT BAY.

...AND THEY WANT THIS TRUCK TO PITCH IN.

THE CITY'S ISSUED AN EMERGENCY LISTING...

WE'RE ONLY EQUIPPED FOR A PATROL.

A HORDE BIG ENOUGH TO BRING OUT THE DEFENSE FORCE?

WHO'D SIGN UP FOR *THAT?*

...WE'LL DRIVE STRAIGHT TO THE NEAREST DISTRESS CALL!

I'LL TAKE A VOTE! IF MOST OF YOU WANT TO TAKE THE JOB...

YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO DECIDE!

IF NOT, WE'LL RETURN TO THE CITY ASAP!

WELL, THAT FIGURES.

NO! NOW GIVE IT A REST!

OF COURSE. I'D NEVER VOLUNTEER TO TAKE ON THAT MANY MONSTERS.

AKIRA, I ASSUME YOU WANT TO HEAD BACK?

DRUNCAM POLICY IS TO TAKE EMERGENCY JOBS WHEN WE CAN AND GET OUR NAME OUT THERE!

KNOW WHEN TO QUIT!

THAT'S ONLY FOR JOBS WE CAN SURVIVE!

AND...

...YOUR "WE" HAD BETTER NOT INCLUDE ME!

I'M NOT PART OF YOUR TEAM!

YOU'RE THE ONE BREAKING THE RULES!

WE CAN HANDLE IT!

TIME'S UP!

IF YOU WANT TO TAKE THE JOB, RAISE YOUR HAND!

WE'LL RETURN TO THE CITY!

IF YOU STILL WANT THE JOB, GET OUT AND RUN!

THE NAYS HAVE IT!

ヒロTWITCH

THAT JOB ELENA AND SARA TOOK MUST'VE BEEN PREP FOR THIS ATTACK.

...DAMN IT!

YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT IT'S JUST TOO RECKLESS.

HE WANTS ANYONE WHO TAKES THE JOB TO GET OUT AND RUN?

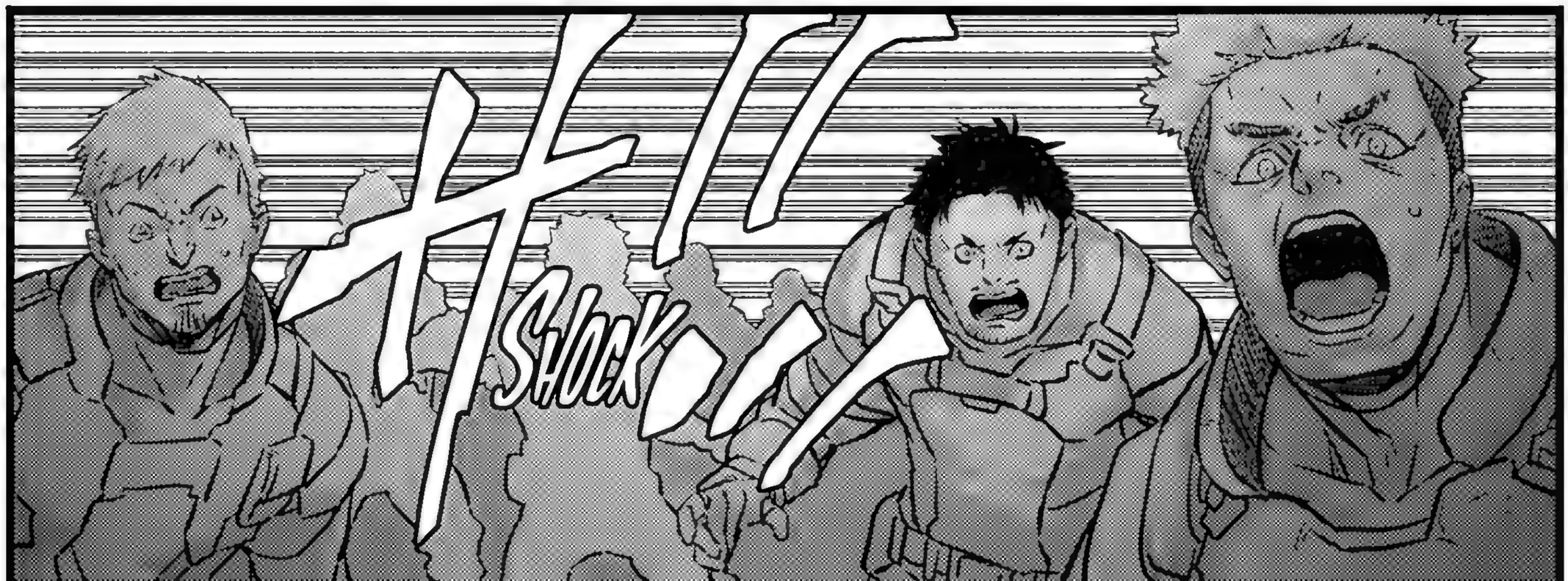
WHAM

KATSUYA.

YUMINA, DON'T TRY TO—

FINE! I'LL GO ON MY OWN!

KLENG


HELP
SHOCK

H-HANG ON, YUMINA!

ARE YOU SERIOUS?

OF COURSE. YOU'RE IN EARNEST.

SO I AM TOO.

KATSUYA, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO EAGER TO SAVE PEOPLE, EVEN AT TIMES LIKE THIS.

I LOVE THAT ABOUT YOU.

I ADORE HOW HAPPY YOU LOOK WHEN YOUR HARD WORK PAYS OFF AND YOU MANAGE TO RESCUE SOMEONE.

I THINK IT'S AMAZING, AND I ADMIRE YOU FOR IT.

SO I WANT TO HAVE YOUR BACK AND HELP YOU DO IT.

BUT I NEVER WANT YOU TO GET YOURSELF KILLED.

IF YOU TAKE ON A RISKY RESCUE MISSION, I'LL GO WITH YOU.

BUT IF YOU TRY TO TRADE YOUR LIFE FOR ANOTH-ER'S...

...I'LL STOP YOU.

EVEN IF I NEED TO SHOOT YOU IN THE LEGS.

GOT THAT? SO TAKE YOUR HAND OFF THE EDGE OF THE TRUCK.

TENSE

SQUEEZE

SHAKE SHAKE

FEEL FREE TO RESENT ME FOR FORCING YOU TO STAY.

KWSH

...

I WON'T. I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.

IF I HAD BEEN, I WOULD HAVE REALIZED THE RISK.

EVEN IF WE *DO* GO OUT THERE, WE OUGHT TO GO BACK AND GEAR UP FIRST.

THANKS FOR REINING ME IN.

AIRI.

YUMINA.

AND I'M NOT SO KIND AS TO AIM FOR YOUR LEGS.

YOU'D BETTER THANK THOSE GIRLS, KATSUYA.

IF YUMINA HADN'T STOPPED YOU, I WOULD'VE HAD TO.

GOOD THING SOMEONE STEPPED IN TO CODDLE OUR PROBLEM CHILD WHO WON'T LISTEN, HUH?

MRMR

WHOA.

IS HE *NUTS*?!

MRMR

?!

IT'S HIM!

VOOM

A FEW MINUTES EARLIER

ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND, AKIRA?

YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THIS IS.

I DO.

AND YOU'LL HARDLY MAKE A DENT IN THAT MANY MONSTERS.

YOU MIGHT NOT FIND ELENA AND SARA.

THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN BE IN TROUBLE.

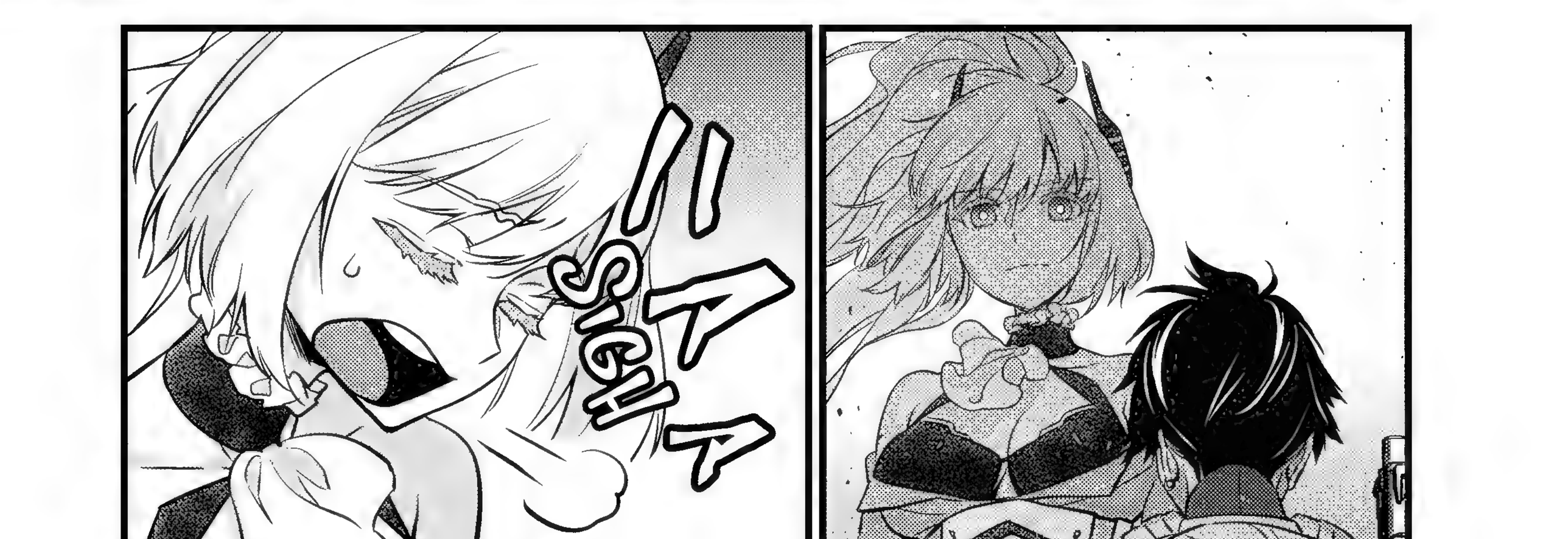
I DON'T WANT TO END UP WONDERING...

...IF I COULD'VE CHANGED SOMETHING.

IF I CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE, I'D STILL RATHER HAVE TRIED.

I WANT TO GO, EVEN IF IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING.

SIGH



I'LL RUN.

AND YOU'RE GOING TO WALK THERE FROM HERE?

HUH? YOU'RE TAKING THE EMERGENCY JOB?

WHOA, HOLD UP! THAT WASN'T MY POINT!

YEAH, I SAID TO GO ON FOOT IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO, BUT THAT WAS A FIGURE OF SPEECH.

...YOU'RE SERIOUS.

I CAN RUN PRETTY FAST IN THIS SUIT.

GOING BACK TO THE CITY AND HITCHING A RIDE WOULD TAKE LONGER.

FFFT FFT

HA
HA
HA

I SIGNED YOU UP FOR THE EMERGENCY JOB!

VROOM

WHAT A PSYCHO!

LOOK AT HIM, RARING TO GO!

NO WAY!

GET GOING!

THAT BIKE'S AN ADVANCE ON YOUR PAYMENT!

VRRRRRM

GOOD LUCK, AND GOOD HUNTING!

VROOM

TRUE HUNTING IS BETTING YOUR LIFE AND WINNING A FORTUNE!

BE CRAZY, RECK-LESS, AND RASH!

SO LIVE ON THE EDGE AND DIE IN THE LEAD!

IRRRT

RRRRRRT

CRASH

CRASH

KABOOM

BOOM!

SMASH

SMASH

KRRRUMMMBBBLLL

GRRMMMMMBLL

RA-TA-TA

KEEP FIRING! DON'T LET 'EM GET CLOSE!

TA-TA-TA-TA!!

IS IT REALLY THAT GREAT?!

I BET THIS ADVANCE IS GONNA COST ME, THEN!

BRRRRRRRR

THIS MOTORBIKE IS SMALL AND COLLAPSIBLE, BUT IT'S STILL BUILT TO HANDLE THE WASTELAND.

YOU GOT A BARGAIN.

ASSUME I'M ALWAYS IN CONTROL OF YOUR SUIT FROM NOW ON.

MON-STERS! AND LOTS OF THEM!

REMEMBER OUR MELEE TRAINING. THIS IS BASICALLY THE SAME.

GOT IT!

I'LL HAVE TO PUSH YOUR SUIT HARD TO FIGHT THAT MANY MONSTERS EFFECTIVELY.

I WON'T SUGARCOAT THIS—YOUR BODY WILL TAKE A BEATING.

RMMM

ARE YOU READY?

SO BACK OUT NOW, OR GRIN AND BEAR IT.

I'LL BE FINE.

MY RESOLVE IS UP TO ME, REMEMBER?

SLANK

VROOM

GREAT! LET'S GO!

KABLAM

タタタ
RATA TA

KA

KA

KA

KA

THIS IS AMAZING!

I SEE YOU'VE GAINED A FRESH APPRECIATION FOR MY PEERLESS SUPPORT!

JUST TRY AND KEEP UP WITH ME!

SURE THING!

ギチ ギチ SKID ギチ

ギチ ギチ ギチ ギチ

TA

TA

TA

RA

THE BIKE REALLY LETS ME KEEP MY DISTANCE.

THIS FIGHT'S WAY EASIER THAN THAT TIME WITH KATSURAGI.

ANYWAY, THE DISTRESS CALL CAME FROM UP AHEAD.

ESPECIALLY SINCE SOME OF THOSE MONSTERS WERE FROM FARTHER EAST.

GOT IT.

BWRP

KA

RRRR

KRETET

BOOM

KA-

BOOM

CRNCH

CRNCH

CRNCH

REBUILD WORLD

RA TA TA TA TA

DAMN IT! THEY'D BETTER PAY US FOR ALL THESE KILLS!

TA TA TA TA

Chapter 17

BUT ONLY IF WE GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE!

THEY WILL IF THE TRUCK'S SCANNERS ARE STILL COUNTING 'EM!

TA TA TA TA TA TA TA TA

LET'S PRAY HE DID HIS JOB BEFORE HE BIT THE DUST!

HELL IF I KNOW! THOSE TIN CANS BLEW AWAY OUR OFFICE CONTACT!

TA TA TA TA TA

WHERE'S OUR BACKUP?!

BACK-UP?!

RA TA TA TA

I DON'T SEE ELENA OR SARA. WHAT NOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WE'VE JUST GOTTA DO WHAT WE CAN.

...I SEE.

THERE THEY ARE!

I ESTIMATE TEN IN COMBAT, AND TWENTY-FIVE CASUALTIES!

ドドド

TRA TA TA TA TA

HE'S PROB-ABLY THE VANGUARD! JUST KEEP SHOOTING!

ONE MEASLY BIKER?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

KA KA KA KA KA KA KA KA

SCREEEE

YEAH, I TOOK YOUR EMER-GENCY JOB.

MAN, WE OWE YOU!

YOU OUR BACK-UP?

MAYBE A YOUNG-LOOKING CYBORG?

WHAT THE-? HE'S A KID!

LET'S HAGGLE LATER. I'LL GIVE IT AWAY IF I HAVE TO.

ER, I HATE TO ASK, BUT–

THAT'S SOME HIGH-END STUFF YOU'VE GOT.

--

COULD YOU SPARE US SOME MEDS?

SOME OF US ARE HURT BAD.

THANKS. YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.

I CAME OUT HERE TO SAVE YOU GUYS, AND LETTING YOU DIE WOULDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME.

ALPHA, WHAT'S OUR SITUATION?

THEIR TRUCK IS TOO DAMAGED TO MOVE.

YOU'LL BE STANDING BY WITH THEM HERE UNTIL HELP COMES.

OKAY.

SHOCK

HOSTILES DETECTED! TWO O'CLOCK!

IT ALL DEPENDS, HUH?

YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO DEFEND THE CITY.

SO YOUR JOB PROBABLY WON'T END UNTIL THE THREAT DOES.

BY THE WAY, WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO FINISH MY JOB?

SHIT! THEY'RE BACK!

THEY MUST'VE ONLY GONE TO RESUPPLY!

ALPHA, WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!

THEY'RE CALLED CANNON INSECTS.

"BORED"?

OR MAYBE IT JUST GOT BORED AND BUILT THEM FOR FUN.

MAYBE ITS AI WENT HAY-WIRE.

WHY WOULD A FACTORY GIVE THEM BUG LEGS?

I SUSPECT A SURVIVING ARMS PLANT BUILT THEM.

BA-KUB OOM

KABOOM

KABOOM

KABOOM

THEY MUST HAVE LEARNED FROM OUR LAST FIGHT!

THIS IS THE WORST RANGE FOR US!

KABOOM!!!

ARGH!

DAMN IT! WE CAN'T HIT THEM FROM HERE!

ガ〃CLANK ニャ〃〃

ガ〃CLANK ニャ〃〃

ガ〃CLANK ニャ〃〃

ガ〃CLANK ニャ〃〃

ガ〃CLANK ニャ〃〃

THE CLANK ニャ〃〃

THE BAD BOY ニャ〃〃

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

AKIRA.

I KNOW THIS IS A LONG SHOT, BUT WOULD YOU CONSIDER FLEEING?

NOT UNTIL I'M THE LAST ONE LEFT.

I HOPE YOU'RE READY.

I'M RESOLVED. THAT'S MY END OF OUR DEAL.

BOOM

SURE THING.

TAKE SOME RECOVERY CAPSULES NOW WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

WE'RE ABOUT TO GET PRETTY RECKLESS.

FFOOM BWSH

SEE YA! WATCH MY BACK!

WILL YOU BE OKAY ON YOUR OWN?

I'LL GO IN CLOSE AND ATTACK THEM. COVER ME.

RATTLE

WELL, THIS WAY THEY'LL HAVE TO SPLIT THEIR ATTACKS.

KA AAH

IF YOU'VE GOT GRENADES, DON'T BE STINGY WITH 'EM!

HEAR THAT, BOYS? DIVIDE AND CONQUER!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

I'LL BE FINE, RIGHT?! THEY'LL KEEP MISSING?!

OUR ENEMIES HAVE EXTREMELY LOW ACCURACY.

I'M GUESSING THERE WERE ERRORS IN THEIR BLUE-PRINTS.

NOT EVEN MY SUPERB CALCULATIONS CAN GUAR-ANTEE THEY WON'T HIT YOU.

FEELING LUCKY?

SO IT'S HARD TO PREDICT EXACTLY WHERE THEIR SHELLS WILL LAND.

BUT THEIR POOR PERFORMANCE ALSO MAKES THEM RANDOM.

THEN PRAY I CAN HANDLE YOUR BAD LUCK.

DON'T JINX IT!

I'M OUT OF GOOD LUCK, REMEMBER?!

...THEN I CAN BLAME YOUR LOUSY SUPPORT WHEN I GET HIT!

YEAH?! IF IT'S NOT LUCK...

BESIDES, YOU *CHOSE* TO BE HERE.

YOU CAN'T BLAME LUCK FOR THAT.

IN THAT CASE, I'LL HAVE TO UP MY GAME TO KEEP YOU SAFER.

HANG ON TIGHT.

OH?

IS THAT HOW YOU SEE IT?

WAAAH!

BRRRRRRR

?!

ZOOM

WHAT DO YOU MEA-

VROOM

NNNGH!

I KNOW THAT!

WOOSH

THIS HURTS, EVEN WITH THOSE MEDS!

BUT IT'S BETTER THAN DYING, RIGHT? GRIN AND BEAR IT!

CREAK

CREAK

CREAK

VROOM

SKEEN

SKEEN

YEAH, MY SHOTS BOUNCE RIGHT OFF 'EM.

DING DING DING

RA TA TA TA

AKIRA, YOU PROBABLY FIGURED THIS OUT ALREADY, BUT YOUR AAH CAN'T DIRECTLY DAMAGE CANNON INSECTS.

WE'LL TARGET THE DRONES THAT RELOAD THEM.

SO, WHAT NOW?

WHAT DRONES?

TVK RRRR

WHAT THE HELL?! THAT'S A WALKING MAGAZINE!

カニ CLICK カニ

CLICK カニ

THOSE.

TAKE THOSE OUT...

...AND THE BUGS WILL RUN OUT OF AMMO. THEY'LL BE SITTING DUCKS.

THEN THE OTHER HUNTERS CAN MOP THEM UP.

GOT IT.

AKIRA!

LOOK THERE!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

VROOM

BOOOOOM

TA TA TA TA

TA TA TA TA

ZERO

AM

WHO *IS* THAT GUY?

FWOOSH

WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS, AND THE OTHER HUNTERS SEEM TO BE PULLING THEIR WEIGHT. AT THIS RATE, WE'LL WIN.

ALL RIGHT! THERE'RE A LOT LESS OF THEM NOW!

KA-TA-TA-TA

WATCH OUT!

AKIRA!

...

WHAT NOW?

KA-THOOM

KA-THOOM

KA-THOOM

KA-THOOM

THEY JUST GOT A NASTY-LOOKING REINFORCEMENT.

ズゥゥゥ

スッ

FWISH

VERY WELL, THEN. LET'S GO SCRAP THAT THING!

ALPHA? WHY AM I PUTTING MY RIFLE AWAY?

BECAUSE SHOOTING IS A WASTE OF TIME.

WE'RE GONNA FIGHT THAT?!

OR HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND?

WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO? YOU REFUSE TO ESCAPE.

I WON'T RUN!

SO DON'T SKIMP ON YOUR SUPPORT!

ドォォ WO ヒロオ

LEAVE IT TO ME!

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

CLANK

SHWOOM

BOOP

BOOP

BWOOSH
KA-
BOOM
FWSH
SO, HOW DO WE BEAT THAT THING?

BOOM!!

BOOM!!

BOOM!!

I WANT MORE DETAILS ABOUT THAT SECOND PART!

WE GET UP CLOSE AND PLAY THINGS BY EAR.

BOOM

WAH!

BWOOO

SCRAAK

SCRAAK

BUT HOW DO WE TAKE IT DOWN?

MY SHOTS'LL JUST BOUNCE OFF IT, EVEN AT CLOSE RANGE.

IT'S HUGE.

NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO DRIVE RIGHT UP.

WITHOUT A FULL TURRET, IT HAS TO TURN ITSELF TO AIM.

WE'LL USE *THOSE.*

WALKING CANNON SHELLS THIS TIME?!

NOT QUITE.

GET READY.

OH, I GET IT! SHOOTING THOSE'LL SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION!

WHUH?!

KER-FF

SHWAK

SHWAK

JUMP

KICK!

ウォ

KRAAH

ッ

THUNK

BAM!!

TRATTA

TRATTA

THMP

TA

TA TA TA TA TA TA

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM

本当に
1Boo0Mi
ナ

REBUILD WORLD

KA-

BOOM

Chapter 18

WHOOSH

NAH, I'M GOOD.

AS PROMISED, WE TRASHED THAT THING!

WANNA HEAR EXACTLY HOW WE DID IT?

HAVE FREE HANDS

YOU THINK?

WE SCRAPED OUT A WIN THIS TIME, BUT YOU NEED MORE TRAINING AND BETTER GEAR BEFORE YOU PICK ANOTHER FIGHT LIKE THAT.

AT THIS RATE, WHO KNOWS WHEN I'LL BE READY?

I GUESS EVEN AFTER BEATING THAT BEHEMOTH, I'M NOWHERE NEAR STRONG ENOUGH TO FINISH MY JOB FOR ALPHA.

!

YEA
AAA
AAH

RATTLE
ヤバ
RATTLE

I NEED MORE MEDS.

I'LL HAVE TO BUY MORE AMMO WHEN I GET BACK TOO.

I WILL GET PAID FOR THIS, RIGHT?

YOU WILL. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.

YEAH? I SURE HOPE SO.

BATH TIME, HERE I COME!

SWAP OUT YOUR SUIT'S ENERGY PACK...

...OR IT'LL BECOME DEAD WEIGHT.

MNCH
モグ
モグ
MNCH

I KNOW.

VRRRRR
ブロロロ

WE'RE SAVED!

LOOK! THE RESCUE TEAM IS HERE!

HEY THERE!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE CRAZY, RECKLESS, RASH, AND ALIVE!

I HEARD YOU WENT *WILD* OUT THERE!

HONEST-LY, I THOUGHT YOU'D BITE THE DUST!

GUESS MY JUDG-MENT'S GETTIN' RUSTY!

HA HA HA

THE MOTOR-BIKE WAS A LIFE-SAVER, SO THANKS.

GREAT! I'M GLAD I GAVE IT TO YOU, THEN.

OH, GOOD.

I'LL HEAD HOME, THEN.

YUP! THE DEFENSE FORCE WIPED OUT THE HORDE THAT ATTACKED THE CITY.

IT'S OVER?

YOU'RE FREE TO GO NOW.

I MARKED YOUR JOB AS DONE.

DRIVE SAFE. DON'T LET A BORING OLD BIKE CRASH DO YOU IN.

WHEN YOU DIE, GO OUT WITH A BANG—BEING CRAZY, RECKLESS, AND RASH!

VREEE

HOW SO?

BUT SOMETHING DOESN'T ADD UP.

SIR?

WE FINISHED TRANS-FERRING THE BATTLE DATA.

ｱｯﾍﾟﾍﾟﾍﾟ

COULD BE AN INSTRUMENT FAILURE.

...OR SOLOING A MASSIVE ROBOT IN MELEE COMBAT.

LIKE A HUNTER CHARGING A SWARM OF MONSTERS ALONE...

WELL, SOME OF IT'S DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE.

AND SEND ME A COPY!

DON'T DELETE THAT DATA WITHOUT MY SAY-SO!

SCRATCH THAT—*I'LL* TALK TO THEM!

INTERVIEW THE OTHER HUNTERS TO CROSS-CHECK.

YES, SIR.

ハハハ...

I LIKE HIM! LIVELIEST HUNTER I'VE SEEN IN AGES!

MAN, HE WENT SO WILD THAT HIS RECORDS LOOK BUGGED!

VREEEE

HE IGNORED THE EMER-GENCY JOB UNTIL HE HEARD THEY WERE INVOLVED.

AKIRA RESCUED ELENA AND SARA—PERFECT STRANGERS—AND FELT DEPRESSED WHEN THEY THANKED HIM.

YET HE RISKED HIS LIFE FIGHT-ING SOME-WHERE THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE.

HIS ACTIONS MAKE NO SENSE.

WHAT PRINCIPLE COULD EXPLAIN ALL HIS BEHAVIOR?

I MUST DISCOVER IT.

...ALL FOR MY OWN ENDS!

TO PREDICT, GUIDE, AND CONTROL AKIRA'S ACTIONS...

...TO MANIPULATE HIS THOUGHTS AND DEEDS...

!!!

SO YOU CAN'T AFFORD A ROOM WITH A BATH TONIGHT.

YOUR PAY DEPOSIT IS RUNNING LATE.

AKIRA, I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS.

WHAT IS IT?

YOU CAN'T AFFORD A HOTEL WITH A GARAGE EITHER.

THAT ASIDE, WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR MOTOR-CYCLE?

I'M SURE THEY'LL PAY YOU BY TOMOR-ROW.

HOLD ON FOR ONE MORE DAY!

SLUMP

...

SOMEONE WILL STEAL IT IF YOU LEAVE IT PARKED. PLANNING TO SLEEP ON IT TONIGHT?

BUT I WORKED SO HARD FOR IT!

OH, I KNOW.

I'LL STASH THE BIKE AT SHERYL'S.

VREEEE

BAM BAM BAM

BOSS!

BOSS!

SHERYL'S BASE

WHAT IS IT? I'M ALREADY IN BED.

AKIRA'S HERE!

BOSS!

ドンドン BAM BAM BAM

HUP...

...WHEW!

ガチャ

THANK YOU FOR WAITING! PLEASE, COME IN.

WOULD YOU WATCH THIS BIKE FOR ME?

SORRY IT'S SO LATE. I NEED A FAVOR.

LET'S TALK HERE.

IF YOU'RE FREE, COME ON IN. I CAN AT LEAST OFFER YOU COFFEE.

OF COURSE! IT WILL BE SAFE WITH ME!

CAN I DO ANYTHING ELSE FOR YOU?

GOOD-BYE. I'LL BE WAITING.

I'LL DROP IN AGAIN SOON. SEE YOU.

WHAT A SHAME. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN *SO* LONG.

I'M HEADING BACK TO MY HOTEL.

NOT TONIGHT. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY.

ZZZZ

ZZZZ

TWELVE MILLION AURUM?!

THE NEXT MORNING

PLUS BONUSES FOR THE TWO WAVES OF MONSTERS YOU FOUGHT OFF AND THE HUNTERS YOU RESCUED.

PLUS THE VALUE OF THE MEDICINE YOU GAVE THEM.

THAT INCLUDES YOUR BASE PAY FOR THE EMERGENCY JOB.

SUBTRACT THE COST OF THE MOTORCYCLE YOU GOT UP FRONT, AND THAT'S YOUR TOTAL.

TWELVE MILLION! I GUESS... ALL THOSE TIMES I NEARLY DIED PAID OFF?

NO NEED TO ACT SHOCKED *EVERY* TIME, AKIRA.

HOW COULD I *NOT*?!

IF TWELVE MIL IS "POCKET CHANGE," WHAT WOULD *YOU* CALL A LOT OF MONEY?!

NOW, LET'S DROP THAT POCKET CHANGE ON SOME UPGRADES.

POCKET CHANGE?!

HUH.

チュー モグ モグ チュー

AURUM IS A CORPORATE CURRENCY. IT CAN'T BUY YOU EVERYTHING.

SOMEDAY, YOU'LL REALIZE HOW LITTLE IT'S WORTH TOO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

EVEN TEN *BILLION'S* POCKET CHANGE, IF YOU'RE PAID IN AURUM.

IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU, AKIRA.

HOW'S YOUR POWERED SUIT? IS IT COMING IN HANDY?

YES, IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

SHIZUKA, I'D LIKE TO BUY ANOTHER AAH.

ALSO, COULD YOU RECOMMEND A GUN THAT'S GOOD AGAINST MACHINES?

I SUPPOSE. THERE ARE A LOT OF OPTIONS, DEPENDING ON YOUR BUDGET.

HOW MUCH CAN YOU AFFORD?

UP TO TEN MILLION AURUM.

CARE TO EXPLAIN...

...HOW YOU'RE SUDDENLY SO RICH?

YOU'VE ONLY HAD YOUR SUIT A FEW DAYS.

ER...

WELL, YOU SEE...

YES?

TA TA CLACK"

LATER, I COULD NOT BELIEVE...

...HOW MUCH MONEY I'D MADE!

I F-FOUGHT A SWARM OF MONSTERS WHILE ON PATROL YESTERDAY.

THEY CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD!

I DIDN'T KNOW THE PAY.

I MEAN, I'D SAY "DESPERATE TO STAY ALIVE," SO...

SO, YOU WERE RECKLESS?

...YES.

YOU WERE RECKLESS.

WEREN'T YOU?

YOU'D BETTER NOT BE COVERED IN BANDAGES!

GIVE ME A LOOK UNDER YOUR SUIT.

SEAM

YOINK

COME WITH ME!

HURRY UP!

I SAID I'M FINE!

THEN YOU WON'T MIND SHOWING ME.

104 SNAP

TUG

キュッ!!...

RUSH

ふた

おた RUSH

THANK GOODNESS. I DON'T SEE ANY MAJOR INJURIES.

はぁ WHEW

I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW MANY SCARS HE HAS. I COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT WHEN I MEASURED HIM FOR HIS SUIT.

PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS.

ALL RIGHT?

...ALL RIGHT.

HUG

FOR FIGHTING ARMORED ROBOTS, I RECOMMEND A CWH ANTI-MATERIEL RIFLE WITH STANDARD ARMOR-PIERCING CARTRIDGES.

NOW, LET'S GET BACK ON TRACK.

IT ALSO TAKES PROPRIETARY CARTRIDGES— EXPENSIVE, BUT WORTH THE PRICE.

THEY CAN TAKE DOWN EVEN MAJOR THREATS...

...OR ONE-SHOT AN ARMORED TARGET.

SMILE

...BUT DON'T YOU DARE GO LOOKING FOR THOSE KINDS OF MONSTERS.

I WOULDN'T DREAM OF IT!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO REMIND YOU..

TMP TMP TMP TMP

FUMP

KA- CHAK

TA-DAAA

I AM TAKING THE DAY OFF, GOT IT?!

I'M TAKING TODAY OFF!

ALPHA, I CAN TAKE TODAY OFF, RIGHT?

BUT DON'T YOU THINK YOU SHOULD FINISH YOUR ERRANDS FIRST?

DON'T WORRY! I WON'T MAKE YOU WORK.

YES! IT'S BATH TIME!

HUH? WHAT ERRANDS?

ぎゅっ

DO I HAVE TO DO THAT *NOW?*

NO, BUT DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET IN TROUBLE.

HE MIGHT CALL OFF THE TRUCE IF YOU DRAG YOUR FEET.

YOU HAVEN'T PAID SHIJIMA THE REST OF YOUR SETTLEMENT EITHER.

YOU DIDN'T TELL SHERYL HOW LONG YOU'D LEAVE YOUR MOTOR-CYCLE WITH HER.

SHE MIGHT EXPECT YOU TO COME RIGHT BACK FOR IT.

I THINK YOU'D BETTER PUT IN AN APPEARANCE.

ZIP//

UGH...

RRRGH.

ガシャン//

ガシャン//

ガシャン//

ｻﾞﾜ MRMR

ｻﾞﾜ MRMR

MY SUIT LETS ME LIFT ALL THIS NO PROB-LEM...

...BUT IT SURE IS HARD TO BALANCE.

GET USED TO IT WHILE YOU CAN.

ｶﾞｼｬｯ CLANK

ｶﾞｼｬｯ CLANK

SHERYL'S BASE

ｻﾞﾜ MRMR

ｻﾞﾜ MRMR

ｷｬｯ SQUEEｰｰｰ

WHERE'S THE HARM? WE NEED TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME FROM YESTERDAY.

LET GO OF ME ALREADY.

CAN'T IT WAIT? I'M HERE FOR A REASON.

ギュ SQUEEZE ぎゅうううう

NOW SHE'S ANNOYING IN A WHOLE NEW WAY.

ABSO-LUTELY! WHAT DO YOU NEED?!

ドロ BLOOW おー

SIDE ROOM

USE THIS TO PAY OFF SHIJIMA.

UMM... ARE YOU SURE?

HE HASN'T PRESSED US, SO WE DON'T NEED TO RUSH.

NOW 500 GRAND IS NOTHING TO ME.

I USED TO GET WORKED UP OVER 200 GRAND.

IS THAT BECAUSE I MADE TWELVE MIL?

DON'T WORRY. THIS IS POCKET CHANGE COMPARED TO WHAT I MADE YESTER-

AH

NOT AT ALL!

I'LL WATCH IT AS LONG AS YOU LIKE.

GOOD, THANKS.

OH, AND MY BIKE. DO YOU MIND IF I USE THIS PLACE AS A GARAGE?

ALL RIGHT. I'LL PAY SHIJIMA.

ぎゅっ CLUTCH

SMILE ♡

NOPE!

THAT'S ALL I CAME FOR.

DO YOU NEED ANYTHING FROM ME?

ぎゅうううう

...

BUSINESS IS DONE NOW, RIGHT?

カチッ

NO WAY.

ちゅっ

YOUR SUIT'S TOO HARD. WOULD YOU MIND TAKING IT OFF?

YES, IT WILL- STRENGTH.

MY SUIT GIVES ME A LOT OF POWER.

COME ON. PLEASE?

IT WON'T COST A THING.

WHY?

BUT I'LL HAVE TO HUG YOU LONGER IF YOU LEAVE IT ON.

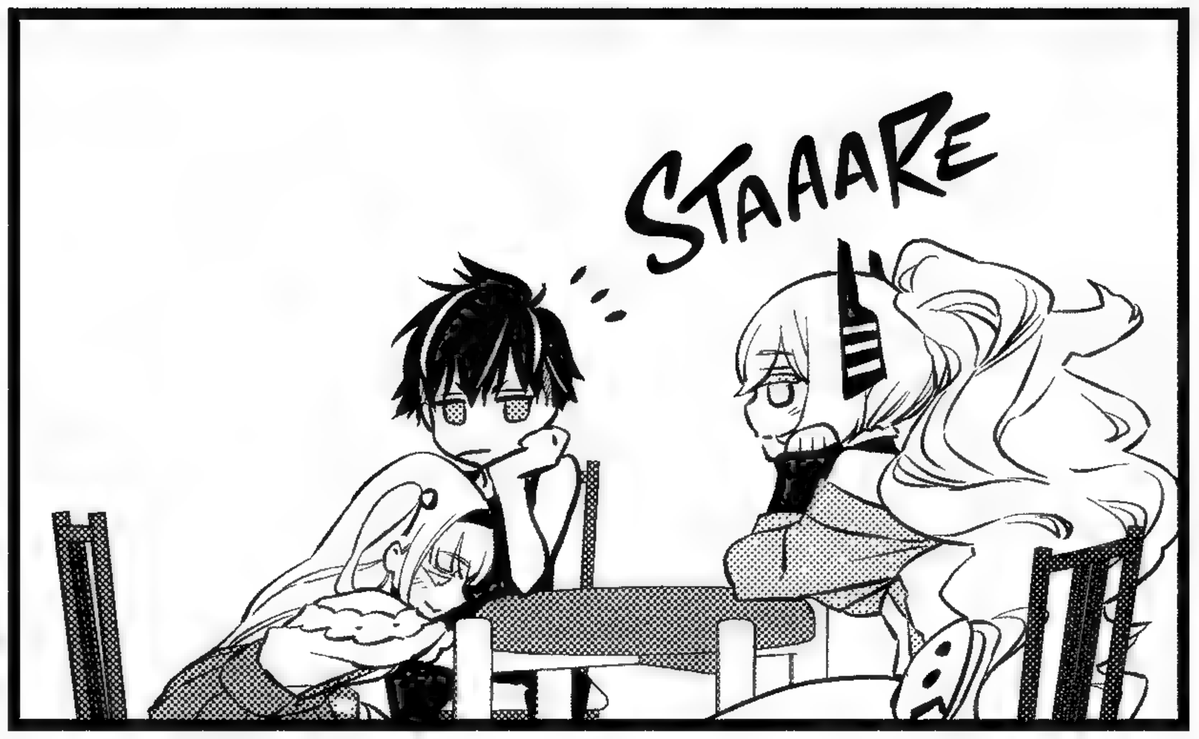
...

BECAUSE IT DOESN'T FEEL AS SATISFY-ING!

SIGH

HAO
GLOOOW

OH,
NOTHING.
WHAT?


STAAARE

HUH? THIS PLACE HAS A BATH?

YES, IT DOES.

SHERYL, THAT'S ENOUGH.

I'M PLANNING ON A NICE, LONG, RELAXING BATH TODAY.

WE HAVE A TUB HERE!

CARE TO TRY IT?

I COULD GET IN WITH YOU AND HELP YOU WASH...

...ALL *SORTS* OF HARD-TO-REACH PLACES.

I SEE. THAT'S TOO BAD.

AKIRA WAS ON EDGE FOR A SECOND.

I ALREADY PAID FOR A ROOM WITH A TUB, SO I'LL USE THAT.

HO-SNAP

I WANT TO RELAX AT MY HOTEL, ANYWAY.

SO, HE DOESN'T TRUST ME.

HE WON'T DISARM TO BATHE.

I CAN'T BLAME HIM NOW.

I NEED TO WORK HARDER TO EARN HIS TRUST.

VRRRRR

HEY! THIS IS BAD NEWS!

HMMRMR

HMMRMR

WHO'S THAT?!

SCREE

KI'CHAK
KI...!

Chapter 19

BAM BAM

BOSS!

SLAM

I SEE... I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

A-A-A... CLACK

SHIJIMA'S HERE, AND HE'S NOT ALONE!

SORRY WE CAN'T OFFER CAKE WITH YOUR COFFEE.

I HOPE YOU WILL FORGIVE US. MONEY IS TIGHT.

CLNK

CLNK

CLNK

I DON'T MIND.

NOW, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

I SEE.

AKIRA'S ALIVE AND WELL, AS YOU CAN TELL.

OH, THIS IS JUST A COURTESY CALL.

WE HAVEN'T REALLY SPOKEN SINCE OUR LAST TÊTE-À-TÊTE.

YES, I'M DELIGHTED TO SEE THAT.

MANY HUNTERS DIED IN THAT ATTACK THE OTHER DAY.

SHIJIMA CAME HERE TO LEARN WHETHER YOU WERE ONE OF THEM.

ALPHA, WHAT ARE THEY GOING ON ABOUT?

I BELIEVE SHIJIMA WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU, AND SHERYL RESPONDED IN KIND.

WHY'S HE CARE?

HE PLANNED TO SNAP UP SHERYL'S GANG IF THEY'D LOST THEIR PATRON.

BUT SHERYL PUT THE BRAKES ON THAT IDEA.

THIS SHOULD SETTLE OUR DEBT.

SLIDE

THIS CLEVER NEGOTIATING IS SUCH A PAIN.

Bitter!

ONE OF THE BURDENS OF LEADERSHIP, I SUPPOSE.

CONSIDER THAT MATTER PEACEFULLY RESOLVED.

INDEED IT DOES.

I HOPE WE CAN PROCEED ON A FRIENDLY FOOTING.

AS DO I.

HE'S PACKING A GOD-DAMNED POWERED SUIT AND A CWH NOW!

HOW'D HE UPGRADE HIS GEAR THIS MUCH SO FAST?

...

...WHY IS SHE SO CONFIDENT?

...OR REGRET NOT KILLING HIM BEFORE HE FINISHED GEARING UP?

SHOULD I PAT MYSELF ON THE BACK FOR NOT FIGHTING HIM LAST TIME...

WELL, NO USE CRYING OVER SPILLED MILK.

BUT...

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO HER?

...

TRUE, I'LL THINK TWICE ABOUT ATTACKING HER NOW, BUT SHE SHOULD STILL BE MORE RATTLED THAN THIS.

NOW, I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE.

IS THIS A BAD TIME? I COULD RESCHED-ULE.

NOW IS FINE. SHALL WE BEGIN?

ALL RIGHT. AS FOR THE TERRITORY THAT CAUSED OUR LAST DISPUTE-

HEY, MIND IF I CUT IN?

HE'S STARTED TAKING ME SERIOUSLY.

THIS IS WHERE IT GETS TOUGH.

OF COURSE. I'VE GOT THINGS COVERED HERE.

SOUNDS LIKE THIS'LL TAKE A WHILE. IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, I WANNA GET GOING.

YOU'RE SENDING AKIRA HOME WHILE SHIJIMA'S HERE?!

ARE YOU CRAZY, BOSS?!

I'M MORE THAN HAPPY TO CONTINUE WITHOUT OUTSIDERS PRESENT.

THIS TALK IS BETWEEN LEADERS, EVEN IF OUR GANGS AREN'T REALLY EQUAL.

NOW, WHERE WERE WE?

THEN I'M OFF, SHERYL.

CLACK

HOLLER IF YOU NEED ME.

SURE, I APPRECI-ATE ALL YOUR HELP.

SO, BOSS, ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD'VE LET HIM TAKE HALF OUR TURF?

ゴロロロ VRRR

I ONLY SOLD WHAT WE CAN'T MANAGE OURSELVES, AND I GOT A MILLION AURUM FOR IT.

THAT LAND WOULD HAVE BEEN A LIABILITY ANYWAY.

THE DEAL WENT PRETTY WELL, AND I GOT SOME TURF OUT OF IT.

STILL...

I MAY HAVE WOKEN SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE LET LIE.

...I CAN'T GET OVER HOW MUCH SHERYL'S CHANGED.

SHE WORRIES ME MORE THAN **AKIRA.** WHERE DOES HER CALM CONFIDENCE COME FROM?

あ

あ

あ

AAAAAH

あ

YOU'VE USED UP A LOT OF YOUR MEDICINE FROM THE RUINS.

THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT. YOU CAN'T KEEP USING IT TO BRUTE FORCE YOUR PROBLEMS ANYMORE.

AKIRA, I HATE TO INTERRUPT YOU WHILE YOU'RE RECHARGING, BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT.

YEAH?

THERE'S GOTTA BE SOME LEFT.

CAN'T WE JUST GO BACK TO THE RUINS FOR MORE?

YOU PROBABLY WOULDN'T SURVIVE A TRIP THERE NOW, EVEN WITH MY SUPPORT.

THAT HUGE ATTACK SHOOK UP KUZUSUHARA'S MONSTER POPULATION.

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST. I'LL HAVE YOUR BACK.

ちゃぷっ Splish!

NO DICE, HUH? OKAY.

I'LL TRY TO BE CAREFUL.

HQ OF DRUNCAM, A HUNTER SYNDICATE

DRATATA DA DA...

DA TA TA TA TA...

KA RA TA KA TA...

DA TA TA TA TA TA...

DA TA DA TA DA...

KA-

CHAK

HISS

CLANG

I COULDN'T SAVE THEM.

IF ONLY... IF ONLY I'D BEEN STRONGER!

KATSUYA, IT'S TIME TO TAKE A BREAK.

THIS ISN'T TRAINING. YOU'RE JUST WEARING YOURSELF OUT.

WE LOST THREE COMRADES FIGHTING THAT HORDE.

ALL DRUNCAM KIDS WE'D TRAINED WITH. NO WONDER HE'S TAKING IT EXTRA HARD.

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

WE ALL KNEW THE RISKS, JUST LIKE YOU DID.

YOU DID YOUR BEST.

I'LL HELP YOU TRAIN TO PROTECT EVERYONE NEXT TIME. SO, GET SOME REST NOW.

OKAY?

LET'S GET STRONG-ER.

I'LL HELP TOO.

WOW, YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD. WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, ARABE?

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

YOU'RE TRY-ING TO MAKE ME KEEP BABYSITTING THOSE BRATS, THAT'S WHAT.

AFTER THAT BRUSH WITH DEATH, WOULDN'T YOU SAY THEY'RE MORE THAN LOUDMOUTHED ROOKIES NOW?

IT'S HARD TO FAULT THEIR RESULTS.

...BUT I HEAR THEY FOUGHT WELL, DESPITE GETTING ASSIGNED TO A TOUGH POSITION.

I KNOW YOU HATE THOSE KIDS, SHIKA-RABE...

HE CAN'T SEE HIS OWN LIMITS.

TAP TAP TAP TAP

IF KATSUYA GOT TEN TIMES STRONGER, HE'D JUST GO SOMEWHERE TEN TIMES MORE DANGEROUS AND GET MORE OF HIS TEAMMATES KILLED.

ARE YOU SERIOUS?! THREE PEOPLE DIED HELPING THE REST GET OUT!

IF YOU ASK ME, THEY'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAYS TO GO.

SO, YOU DON'T THINK HE'S HUNTER MATERIAL?

THAT'S HIGH PRAISE!

I'M ABOVE LETTING PERSONAL FEELINGS WARP MY JUDGMENT.

WELL, HE'S GOT MORE TALENT THAN EITHER OF US.

A DIA-MOND IN THE ROUGH.

I MIGHT EVEN CALL HIM ONE IN A MILLION.

NO WAY! I CALLED HIM A DIAMOND, BUT I DON'T WANNA BE THE POLISH THAT MAKES HIM SHINE.

FINDING HIS NEXT BABYSITTER WOULD BE EASIER IF YOU DIDN'T GRIPE LIKE THAT.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED YOU TO TRAIN HIM. COULDN'T YOU GRIN AND BEAR IT A LITTLE LONGER?

WELL, WE'RE IN TALKS, BUT I DON'T LIKE OUR CHANCES.

DRUNCAM'S TRYING TO RECRUIT THEM, RIGHT?

ARABE, HOW ABOUT ELENA AND SARA?

...

THEN MAKE IT A JOB. PAY THEM EXTRA TO TRAIN THE KIDS!

YOU'RE AN EXEC. THROW YOUR WEIGHT AROUND!

ACCOUNTING WOULDN'T LIKE THAT.

DAMN IT! I WISH THOSE BEAN COUNTERS KNEW WHAT IT'S LIKE ON THE GROUND.

SHIZUKA, GIVE US THE USUAL STUFF, BUT THREE TIMES AS MUCH!

YOU'RE REALLY STOCKING UP!

AND YOU LOOK EXHAUSTED. WAS YOUR JOB THAT ROUGH?

WELL, WE CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT THE PAY, AT LEAST.

MAYBE THEY DIDN'T WANT US GRUM-BLING.

PLEASE DON'T JUDGE BY MY BUST SIZE.

I GUESS IT WAS.

STARE

SOME OF THE MONSTERS HAD CAMOU-FLAGE.

SO I SUDDENLY GOT STUCK SCOUTING FOR EVERYONE.

SOME PLACES WE GOT SENT, TANKS AND MECHS WERE GOING WILD! TALK ABOUT A NIGHTMARE.

AND NOW, OUR NEXT STORY.

THE ELGC HAS IDENTIFIED THE RECENT MONSTER ASSAULT ON KUGAMAYAMA CITY...

...AS AN ACT OF TERRORISM PERPETRATED BY NATIONALISTS.

MULTIPLE TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED RESPONSI-BILITY.

THEY CALL THE ATTACK "A JUSTIFIED REPRISAL FOR THE ELGC'S CRIMES"...

...AND "A HOLY WAR AGAINST THE ELGC'S WRONGFUL CONTROL OF THE EAST."

I DOUBT THIS CITY HAS ENOUGH INFLU-ENCE...

...TO MAKE IT AN APPEALING TARGET FOR NATIONAL-ISTS.

NATION-ALISTS, HUH?

THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THE ELGC WAS OUR CLIENT ON THAT JOB.

THE ATTACK WOULD HAVE A BIG EFFECT ON OTHER NATIONALISTS TOO. I'M NOT SURE I TRUST THAT REPORT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHIZUKA?

THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN HEAVY CASUAL-TIES.

AND LURING OUT MON-STERS FROM DEEP IN KUZUSU-HARA?

WELL, SPECULAT-ING WON'T GET US ANY-WHERE.

THE ELGC WILL TAKE SWIFT MEASURES...

...AND CRACK DOWN ON FANATICS WHO THREATEN THE PEACE OF...

I GUESS NOT.

HMM...

THEY'RE NOT LYING.

AND THEIR STORY MAKES SENSE.

BUT PARTS OF IT DON'T SIT QUITE RIGHT WITH ME.

THAT'S ABOUT ALL I CAN SAY.

DEEP IN THE KUZUSUHARA RUINS

MR. YANAGISAWA. I KNOW WHAT'S DONE IS DONE, BUT WAS THAT REALLY A GOOD IDEA?

YEAH, BUT WE STILL SICCED A PACK OF MONSTERS ON A CITY!

DON'T SWEAT IT! LIKE I TOLD YOU, I CLEARED IT WITH THE ELGC.

FROM THE ALFOTO PARTY.

THE DECOYS WHO DIED LURING OUT THE MONSTERS REALLY WERE NATION-ALISTS.

AND THE NEWS IS BLAMING NATIONALISTS FOR THE ATTACK.

AND THE DECOYS MUST BE SATISFIED. THEY DIED FOR THE CAUSE.

SO, THE NEWS HAS IT RIGHT.

IF WE'RE NOT LUCKY, WE COULD GET LUMPED IN WITH THEM.

WELL, YEAH.

ONCE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT INFO, FINDING AN IN IS A CAKEWALK.

I KNEW YOU HAD CONNECTIONS, SIR—BUT EVEN WITH NATIONAL-ISTS?

THOSE GUYS WERE WITH THE ALFOTO PARTY?

DON'T WORRY. THE DEAL I STRUCK HAS YOU COVERED.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, SIR, BUT I DON'T WANNA GET HUNG OUT TO DRY.

THE ATTACK FAILED, BUT IT'S STILL A CAPITAL CRIME.

EVERY SO OFTEN, SOMEONE NEEDS TO REMIND THEM THAT THEIR SAFETY COMES AT A HIGH PRICE.

THE CITY DEFENSE FORCE HASN'T HAD MUCH TO DO LATELY.

THE PETITE BOURGEOISIE INSIDE THE WALLS HAS BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THEIR BUDGET.

WHY BRING OUT THE REAL HEAVY HITTERS FROM THE HEART OF KUZUSUHARA?

BUT YOU COULD HAVE USED MON-STERS FROM ANOTHER RUIN FOR THAT, SIR.

HUNTERS FINISHED EXPLORING THE KUZUSUHARA OUTSKIRTS AGES AGO.

KUGA-MAYAMA'S LEADERSHIP IS ITCHING TO LAUNCH EXPEDITIONS FARTHER IN.

SO CULLING SOME MONSTERS FROM THE INTERIOR WORKED OUT GREAT FOR THEM.

AND IN THE WASTELAND, THEY COULD BRING OUT THE BIG GUNS.

THE ADMINS WANT TO SHUT UP THE CENTRAL DISTRICTS.

THE DEFENSE FORCE WANTS TO JUSTIFY ITS BUDGET AND SHOW OFF.

THE CITY BIGWIGS WANT TO CONQUER KUZUSUHARA.

HUNTERS WANT FAME AND FORTUNE.

THE ALFOTO PARTY WANTS TO GAIN CLOUT BY ATTACKING A CITY.

SO, IT'S WIN-WIN FOR EVERYONE BUT THE DEAD MONSTERS. GREAT PLAN, DON'T YOU THINK?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR *YOU,* SIR?

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

DO YOU NEED SOMETHING DEEP IN THE KUZUSUHARA RUINS?

I'M NOT TELLING.

BUT YOU COULD SAY I'M WORKING TO ADVANCE THE HUMAN RACE.

NO MORE CHITCHAT. LET'S MOVE.

YES, BUT THAT'S NOT QUITE ENOUGH! YOU NEED RANK 20 TO RENT A WASTE-LAND VEHICLE.

THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO HUNT FARTHER AFIELD THAN KUZUSUHARA.

BLAM

THAT EMERGENCY JOB BUMPED MY HUNTER RANK UP TO 17, RIGHT, ALPHA?

BLAM

A DEVICE THAT GATHERS DATA TO HELP YOU EXPLORE AND SPOT THREATS.

I CAN'T SCOUT AS WELL OUTSIDE KUZUSUHARA, SO YOU'LL NEED TO COMPENSATE.

IN THE MEAN-TIME, LET'S WORK ON YOUR GEAR. HOW ABOUT A SCANNER?

A WHAT?

I'M BLEEDING MONEY...

CARTRIDGE FREAK

KCHAK

DON'T BE. I'M SORRY FOR ASKING TOO MUCH.

SORRY, I DON'T CARRY SCANNERS.

HI THERE, AKIRA!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU LOOKING WELL! I HEAR YOU HAD IT ROUGH DURING THE ATTACK.

YOU TOO, ELENA, SARA!

SARA HAS NANOMACHINE AUGMENTS, SO I GET WHY SHE DOESN'T NEED ONE.

BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU DON'T, ELENA.

SAY, YOU DON'T WEAR POWERED SUITS, DO YOU?

NOPE.

SAYS THE WOMAN WHO WAVES GRENADE LAUNCHERS AROUND ONE-HANDED.

WELL...

HUH?

ER...

AND SHE STILL CALLS HERSELF "DELI-CATE"!

PRETTY RIDIC-ULOUS, HUH?

RIGHT?! BUT IF ONE OF US IS FREAKISHLY STRONG, IT'S ELENA! SHE LUGS ALL THOSE HEAVY INSTRUMENTS AND GUNS AROUND.

THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU TWO.

YOU'RE SCARING AKIRA.

BUT THEN YOU'D LOSE THOSE BOOBS YOU'RE SO PROUD OF.

GLARE

I'D BE *WAY* MORE DELICATE THAN YOU WITHOUT MY NANO-MACHINES!

WHICH ONE OF US WOULD *YOU* CALL DELICATE?

YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY TOO, SARA.

WHAT ABOUT ME?!

TEE HEE HEE!

WHY, THANK YOU, AKIRA!

ER, WELL...

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT DELI-CATE...

...BUT I THINK YOU'RE SLIM AND PRETTY, ELENA.

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO PRICKLY TO ME?!

YOU'RE PRETTY. SATIS-FIED?

BECAUSE I KNOW YOU'RE JUST TEASING ME.

I THINK YOU'RE SUPER PRETTY.

AND ME?

AND *ME*, AKIRA?

HOW DOES TWO MILLION AURUM SOUND?

IT'S FROM SENBA ELECTRONICS, SO YOU CAN COUNT ON IT TO DO THE JOB.

REMEMBER THAT ONE YOU'VE GOT GATHERING DUST BECAUSE IT DIDN'T SUIT YOU? WHY NOT PASS IT ON?

BY THE WAY, ELENA, AKIRA IS IN THE MARKET FOR A SCANNER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.

OH, THAT THING? IT MIGHT BE PERFECT FOR A BEGINNER.

TODAY, YOU'LL PRACTICE USING THE SCANNER YOU BOUGHT FROM ELENA.

VREEEEE

I'VE NEVER GONE THIS FAR BEFORE. I WONDER WHAT THESE OTHER RUINS ARE LIKE!

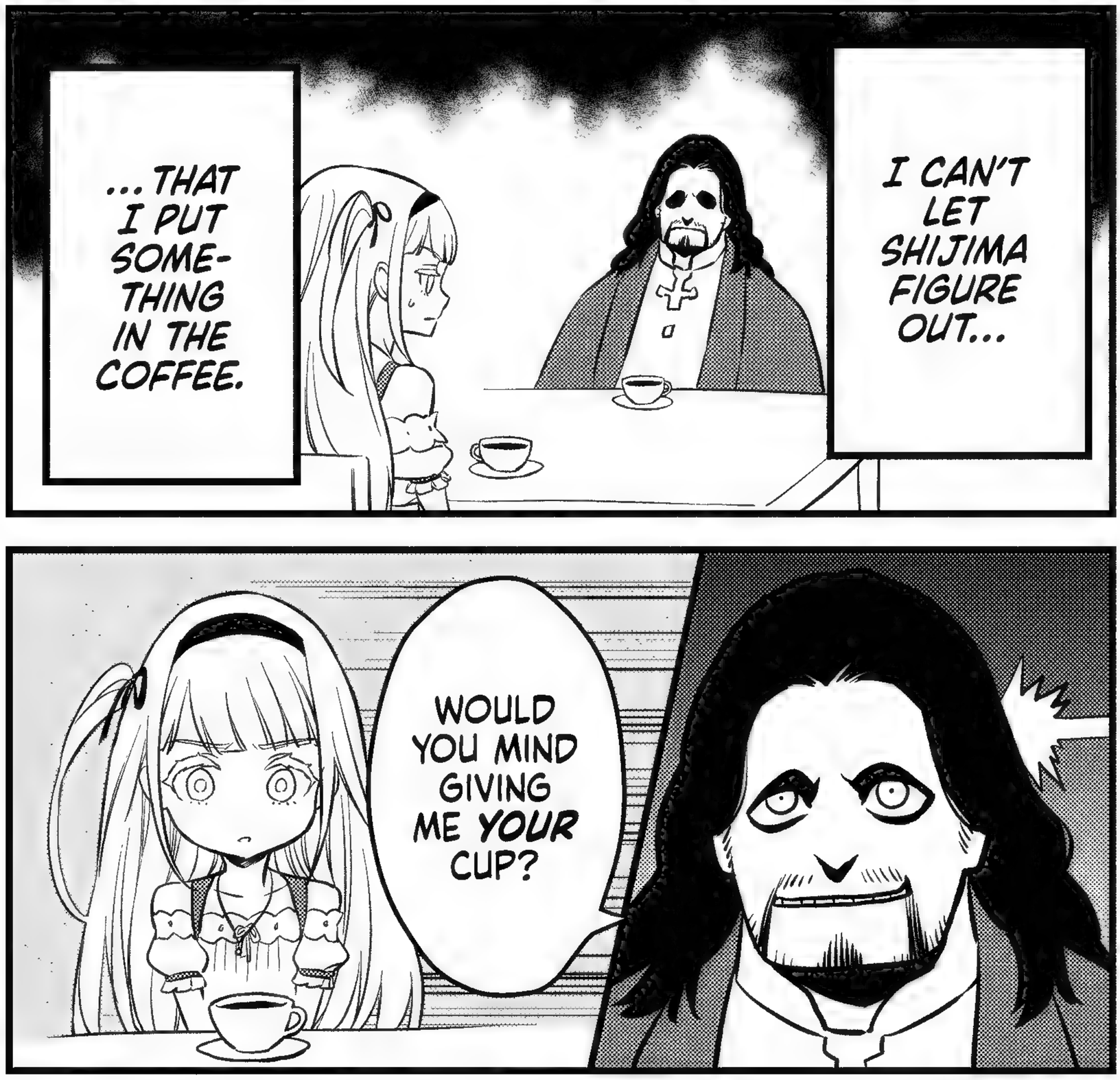
KIII

HERE WE ARE! WELCOME TO THE HIGARAKA RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT RUINS!

To Be Continued in Volume 5

REBUILD WORLD

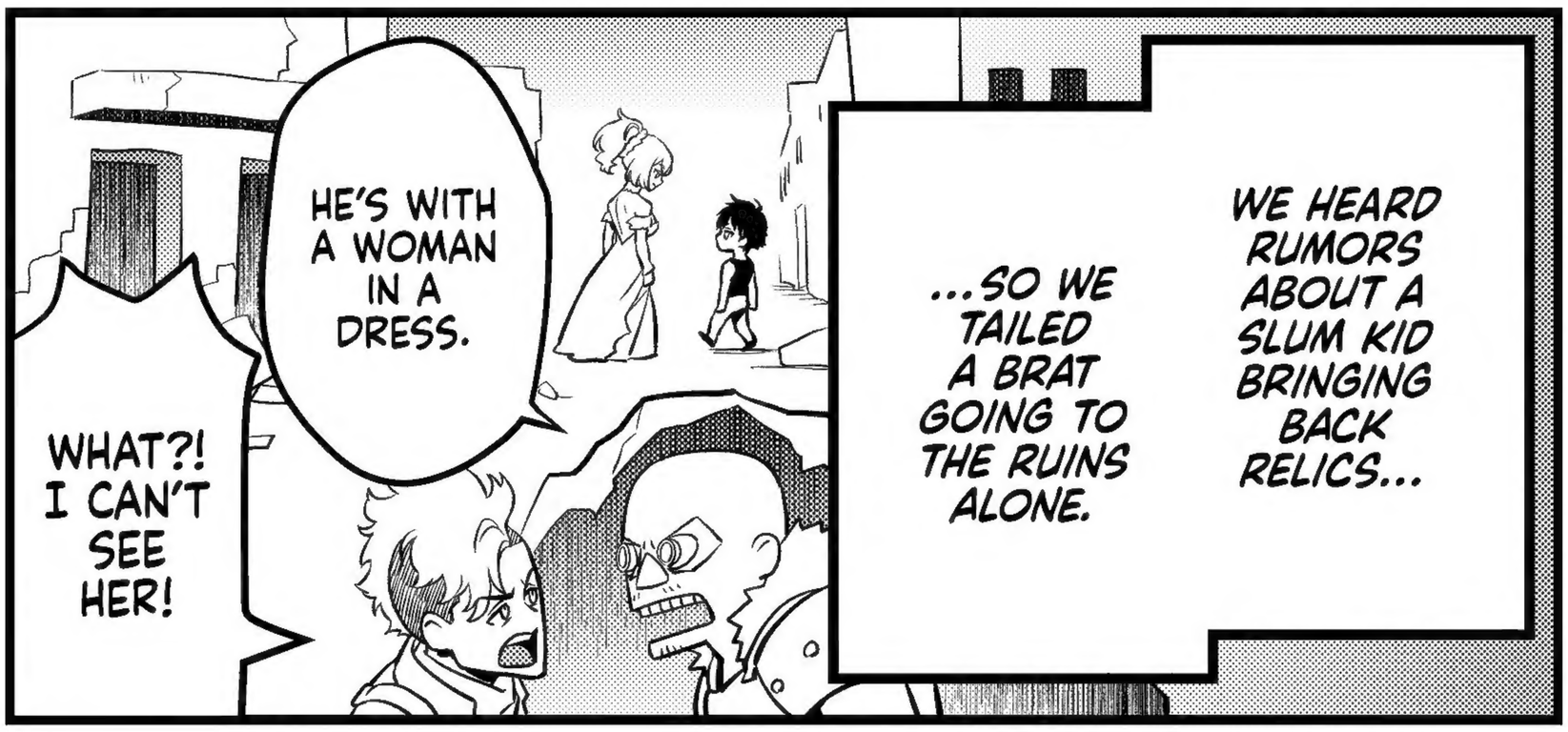
Negotia-tions

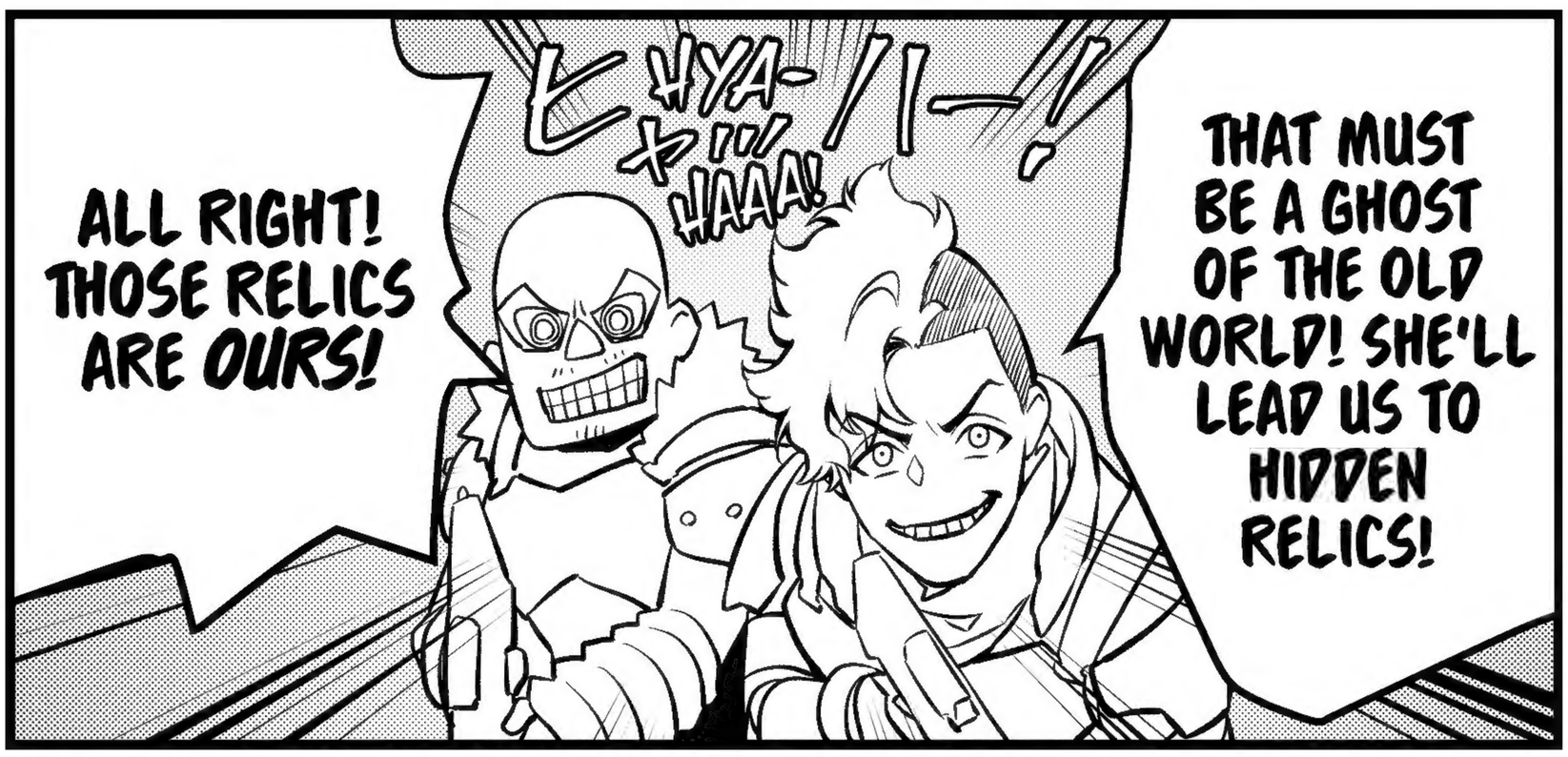

...THAT I PUT SOME-THING IN THE COFFEE.
I CAN'T LET SHIJIMA FIGURE OUT...
WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME YOUR CUP?
AS A GANG LEADER, I MUSTN'T LET ANYONE FIND OUT...
HE SUSPECTS SOMETHING! BUT I PLANNED FOR THAT AND SWITCHED OUR CUPS IN ADVANCE!
LOADED WITH SUGAR
...THAT I CAN'T DRINK COFFEE BLACK!!!

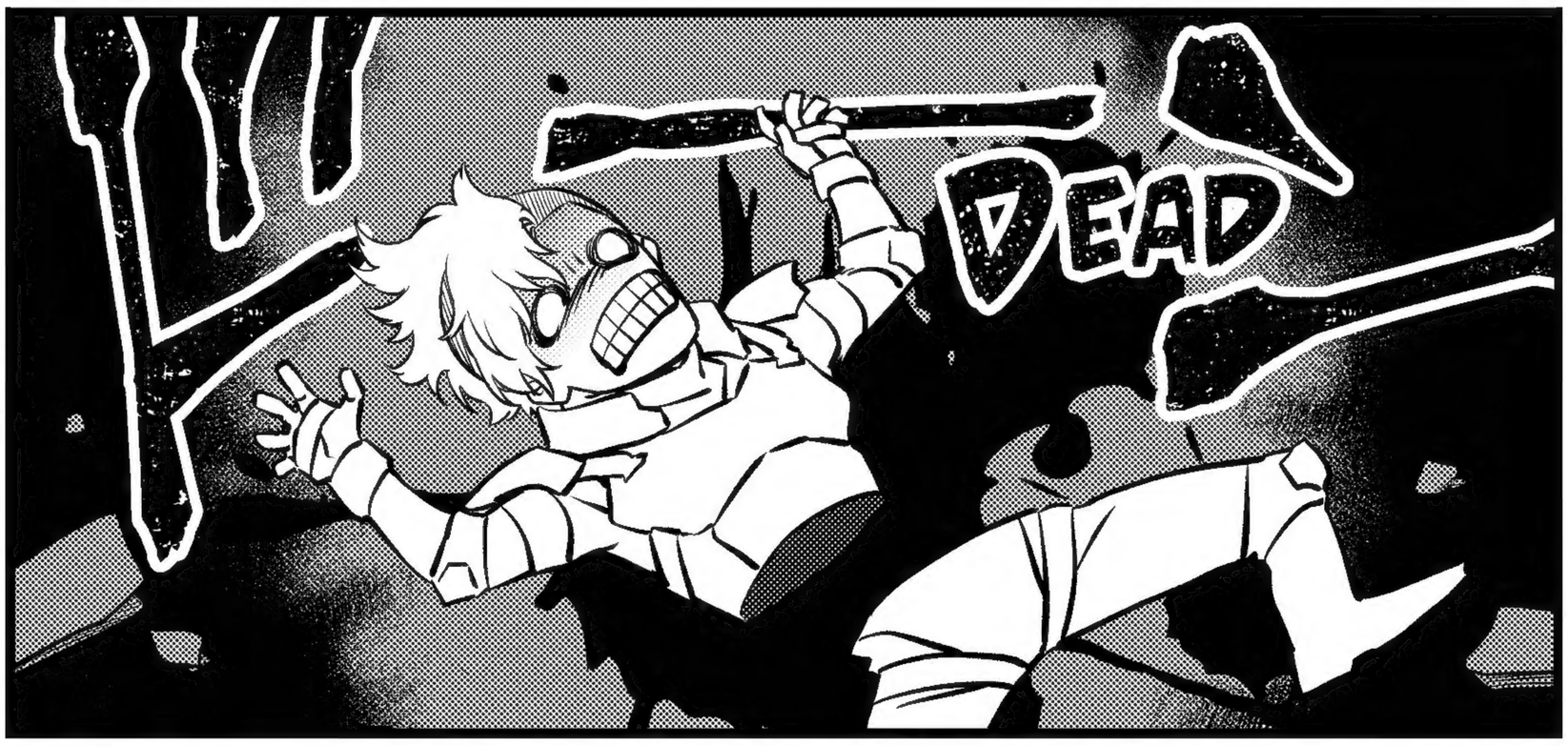
The Trap

N-NO, I WASN'T!
WERE TOO.
KATSUYA, I SAW YOU CHECKING OUT SARA'S BOOBS JUST NOW!
YOU KNOW, KAT-SUYA...
LIKELY STORY.
I SWEAR I WAS NOT!
?!
GULP!!
SARA'S NOT WEARING A BRA RIGHT NOW. ALL HERS BROKE BECAUSE SHE'S TOO STRONG FOR THEM!
YOU SET ME UP!
GROSS.
SEE! YOU ARE STARING!

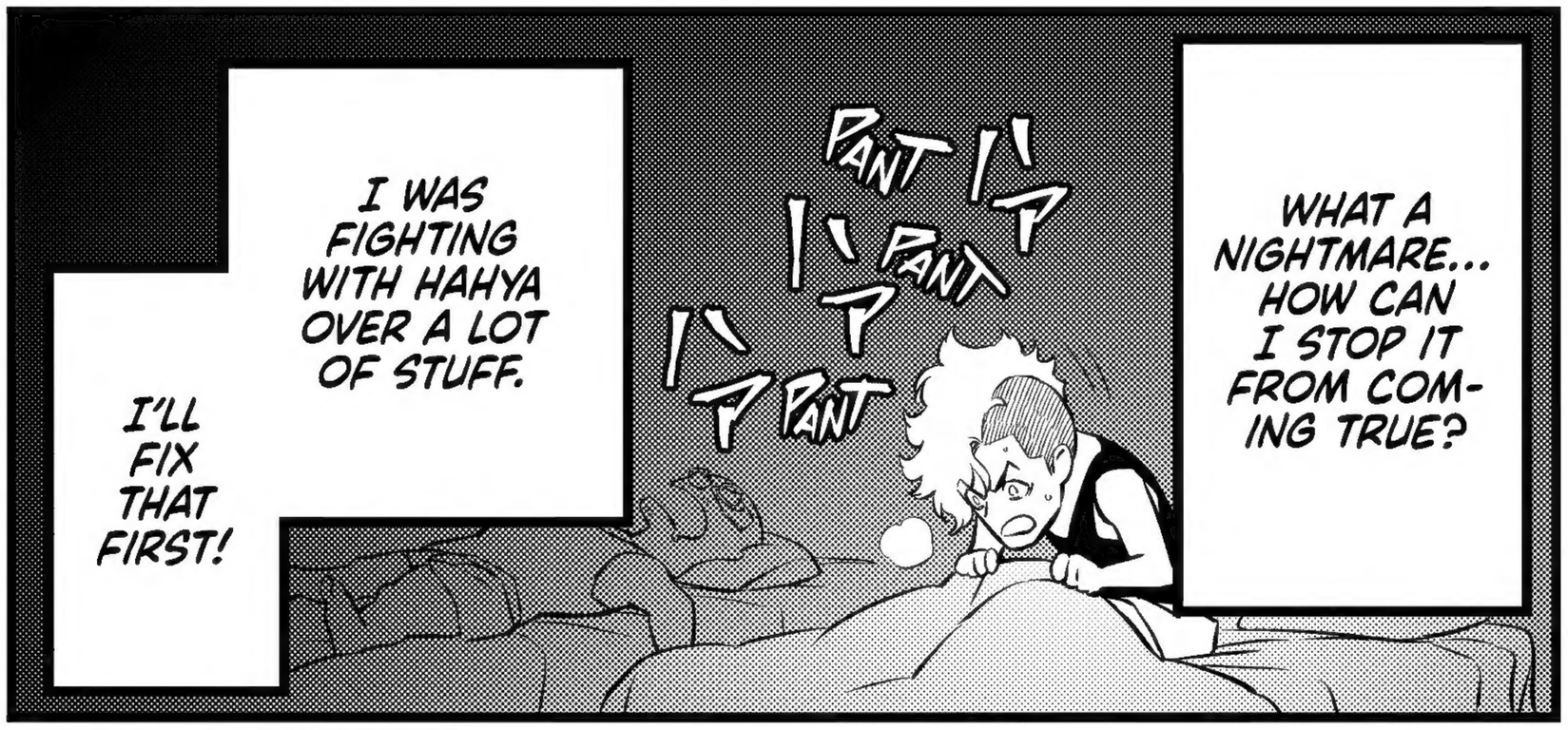
Chase Those Rumors!

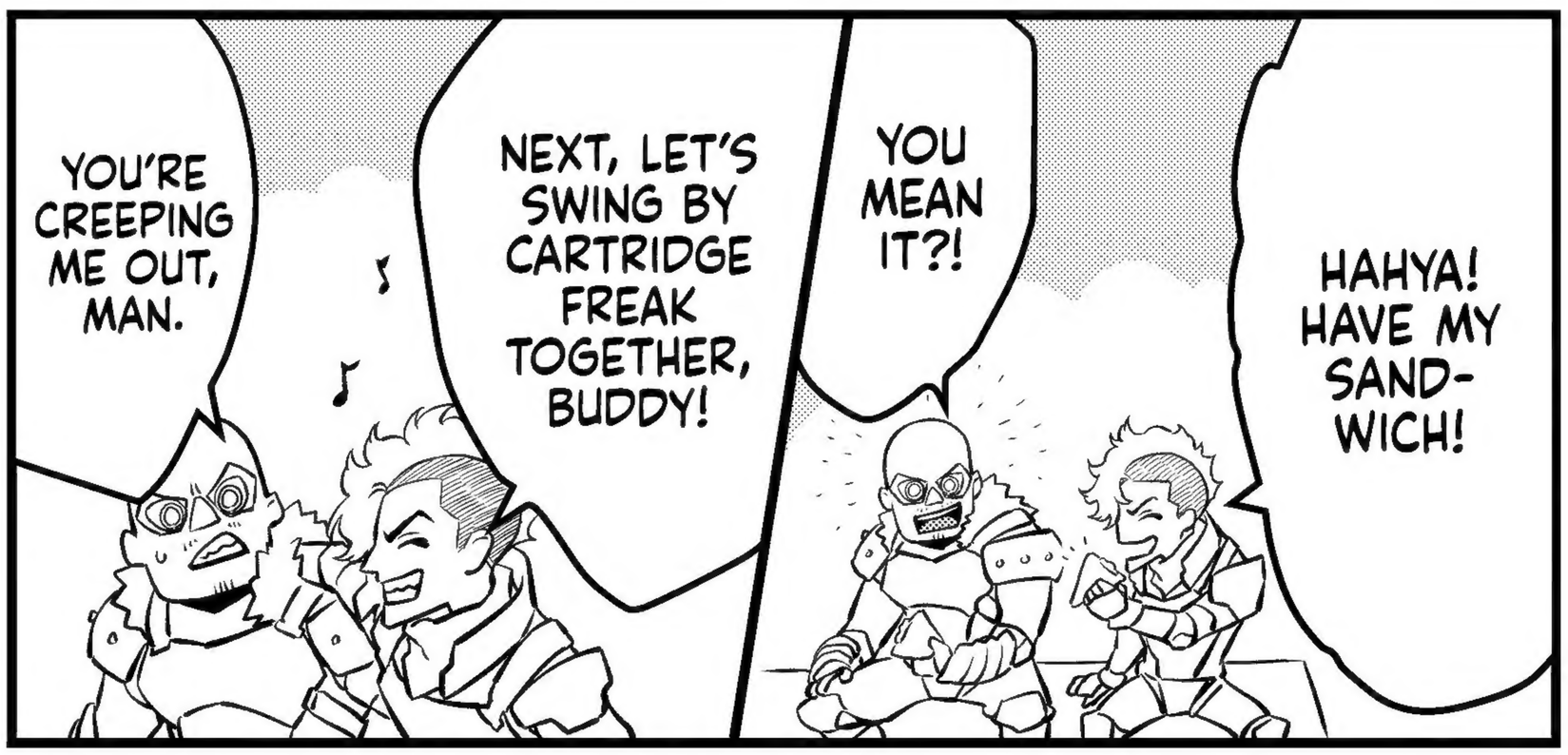

HE'S WITH A WOMAN IN A DRESS.
WHAT?! I CAN'T SEE HER!
...SO WE TAILED A BRAT GOING TO THE RUINS ALONE.
WE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT A SLUM KID BRINGING BACK RELICS...

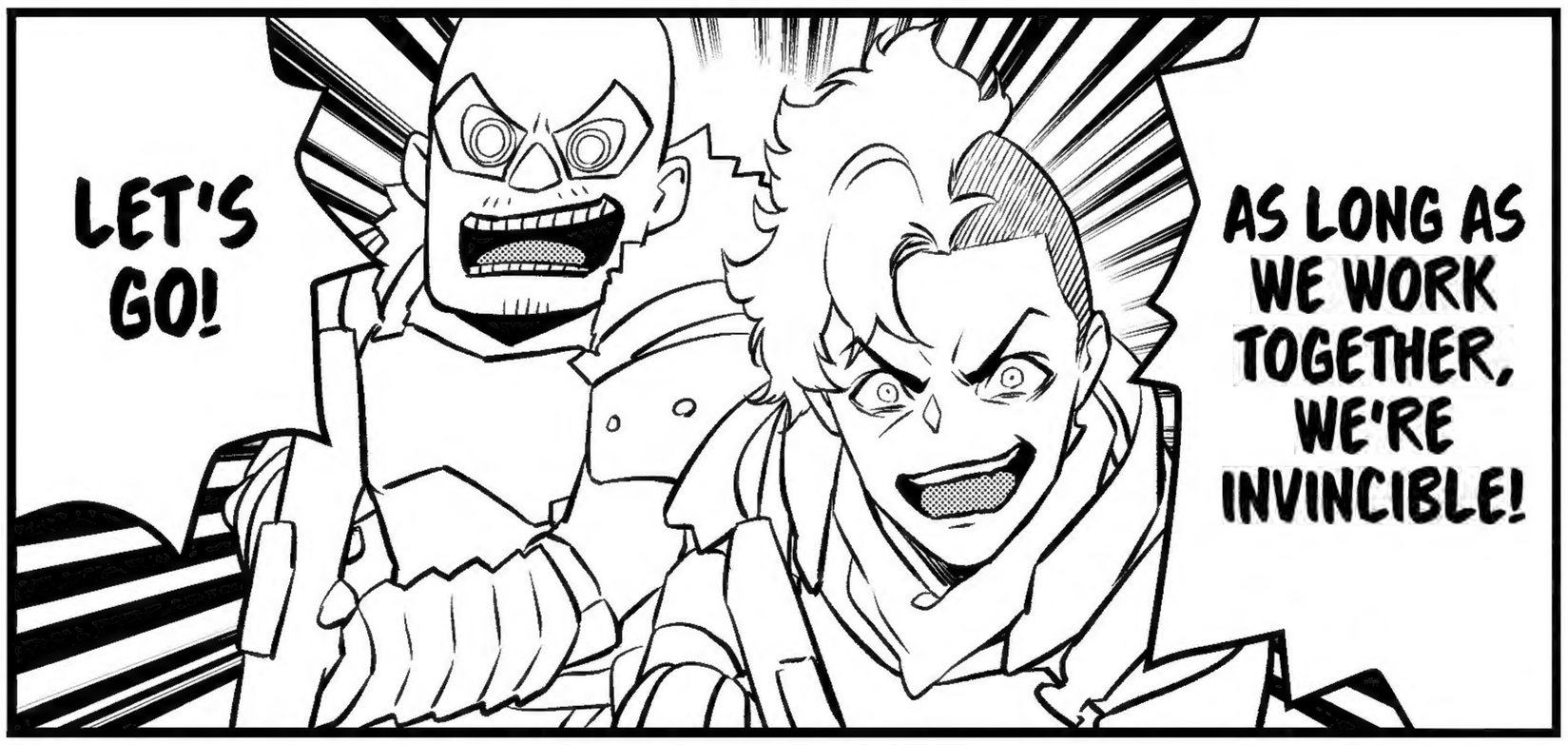


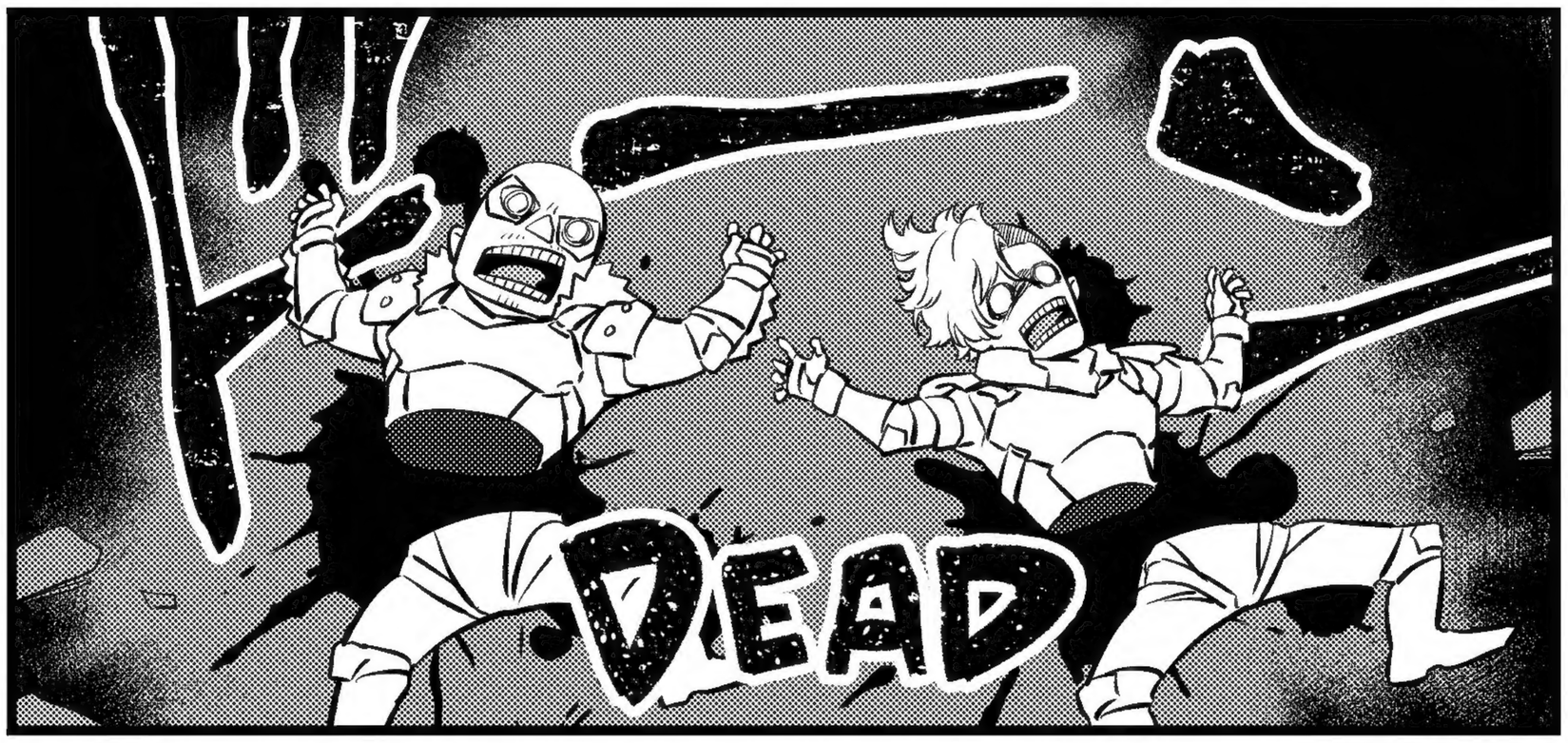


Bonds


I'LL FIX THAT FIRST!
I WAS FIGHTING WITH HAHYA OVER A LOT OF STUFF.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
WHAT A NIGHTMARE... HOW CAN I STOP IT FROM COMING TRUE?


YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT, MAN.
NEXT, LET'S SWING BY CARTRIDGE FREAK TOGETHER, BUDDY!
YOU MEAN IT?!
HAHYA! HAVE MY SAND-WICH!


LET'S GO!
AS LONG AS WE WORK TOGETHER, WE'RE INVINCIBLE!


DEAD

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